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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk May 8, 2011

EAST KENT EDITION

Issue no 450

Osborne gives hope for Pfizer Enterprise Zone plan

By Steve Knight

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CHANCELLOR George Osborne has given fresh optimism that the Pfizer site will be included among the Government's next round of Enterprise Zone allocations.

The Prime Minister's right-hand man paid a visit to Kent on Tuesday and spoke of the importance of attracting new business to Sandwich once the pharmaceutical giant pulls out of the area next year.

And while Mr Osborne refused to be drawn on what locations he thinks will eventually become Enterprise Zones, he hinted to KoS that the Pfizer site was in with a good shout.

The Chancellor's comments will provide a boost to politicians and business leaders upset that he did not include the

development in the first round of 11 Enterprise Zones announced last March, instead choosing to allocate them mostly to cities in the North.

Mr Osborne said: "The reason Pfizer was not included was that we were looking very specifically at big cities, and Sandwich does not fall into that category. However, we are keen to see if we can put something together for that and the airfield (Manston).

"I've spent a lot of time on the Pfizer issue and we deeply regret the company's decision to pull out of the area. But we've got to make sure the site is developed and that we help the pharmaceutical industry and other businesses to grow and stay in Kent.

"I don't want to pre-empt the

Continued on page 2



CAN OUR APPRENTICE WIN OVER LORD SUGAR?

■ OVER-CONFIDENT? 'Good looking' contestant has set his sights on victory. **FULL STORY INSIDE**

WAR ON TERROR

Bomb victim on Bin Laden

A SURVIVOR of the 7/7 London Bombings has warned against complacency following the death of Osama Bin Laden.

Counter-terrorism expert Beverli Rhodes, from Kennington, near Ashford, says Al Qaeda will not be weakened and will seek to avenge the loss of their leader. **PAGE 6**

TELEVISION

QI host Fry at Port Lympne

MUCH-LOVED television presenter Stephen Fry paid a visit to Port Lympne zoo to film a new documentary about language.

The QI presenter revealed on Twitter that he thoroughly enjoyed his visit despite suffering from a bad back on his journey down to Kent. **PAGE 11**

SPORT

Fleet on verge of final place

PROMOTION back to the Conference Premier remains on the cards for Ebbsfleet United as they look to book their spot in the play-off final today.

Liam Daish's side are hot favourites to progress after winning their semi-final first leg against Chelmsford City 4-1 on Tuesday night. **PAGE 87**

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News

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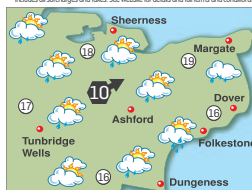
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TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	02.24	6.1	14.56	6.1
Margate	03.42	4.4	15.52	4.3
St Mary's	08.28	4.9	20.48	5.0

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 21C	Min 11C
Tuesday	Max 19C	Min 9C
Wednesday	Max 19C	Min 9C
Thursday	Max 19C	Min 9C
Friday	Max 19C	Min 9C
Saturday	Max 18C	Min 9C

Information supplied by **MeteoGroup**

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CHANCELLOR'S VISIT

Osborne offers hope of Enterprise Zone help

Continued from front page

decisions I have to make but no, the next round of Enterprise Zones will not have to be in big cities and we are now looking at some specific sites.

"What is really important – and I'm sure they're doing this already – is that local authorities and businesses come together and put forward a really good bid for the Pfizer site to become an Enterprise Zone, making use of the fact that it has good rail links to London and an airfield next door."

Firms that choose to set up in Enterprise Zones benefit through government incentives such as business discount rates, lenient planning rules and superfast broadband.

However, there are concerns that Kent could be penalised for being part of one of the largest Local Enterprise Partnerships in the country, as the Department for Business says it expects to allocate no more than one Enterprise Zone per LEP area when the 11 remaining sites are announced later this year.



TRUE BLUE: Chancellor George Osborne receives a Gills strip from manager Andy Hessenthaler during his visit to the club on Tuesday

This means the Pfizer proposal may have to compete with others put forward by council and business leaders from Kent's partner authorities of Essex and East Sussex.

Mr Osborne visited Priestfield Stadium – the home of Gillingham FC – on Tuesday after accepting an invitation

from the town's Conservative MP Rehman Chishty.

While there he accepted a Gills strip from team manager Andy Hessenthaler, enjoyed a brief tour of the ground and also met with the club's vice-chairman Michael Anderson.

The Chancellor said: "I wanted to

visit this great football club because the local MP has told me all about the role it plays in the community.

"In the Budget I froze the business rates for smaller businesses and cut taxes for businesses because we need them to be growing and taking on people. We are getting on top of the national debt."

EMPLOYMENT

Power park plan 'will boost jobs'

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A GREEN energy park located a stone's throw from the Pfizer site could create hundreds of local jobs over the next decade, if plans go ahead.

Owners of the former Richborough power station near Sandwich – Richborough A Ltd – commissioned BFL Management to look at re-using the site for the creation of environmentally-sustainable energy.

A spokeswoman for BFL, which has managed the disused station since 2007, said if proposals go ahead, more than 60 permanent jobs will be created and 400-500 during the five-10 years of construction.

The 300-acre site would see providers and operators create sustainable energy from a number of materials, including wood, crop residues, gases and household and commercial waste, to provide clean energy to power more than a million local homes and businesses.

The BFL spokeswoman said the energy park would attract an estimated £750 million of investment and could be crucial to the recovery of the east Kent economy in the wake of Pfizer's closure at Sandwich.

The National Grid has already committed to investing more than £300m in capital costs and a further £100m on their existing part of the site and grid connection.

The BFL spokeswoman said: "We wrote to 6,000 local households explaining what we are planning and some have come back to us and said any opportunity for jobs would be welcomed.

"Seventy-nine per cent said they wanted the site brought back into use."

In a letter to residents, BFL's development director Gary Lever said a professional team had been instructed to assist in developing a masterplan for a "world class energy park".

"At this stage, we are very keen to ensure our plans and aspirations for the site are drawn up in conjunction with Kent County Council and the local authorities, Thanet and

Dover, as well as local residents and interest groups," he said.

"In preparing our masterplan proposals we will be holding a public exhibition in May."

The proposed scheme will include a National Grid interconnector to Belgium to transfer power there and back; an anaerobic digester plant to receive and process green and food waste; and biomass and gasification plants, which turn waste into electricity using heat.

BFL said the site would also offer an ideal location to process a wide variety of recyclable goods; create valuable by-products during energy generation, which could help local horticultural businesses; and help

put landfill gases to productive use such as electricity generation.

The management company said the "exemplar" green energy park would help address the landfill shortage in Kent, bring a substantial brownfield site back into use and help the county meet its recycling targets.

The BFL spokeswoman added that ecological surveys had been carried out to ensure the surrounding wildlife and habitat would be protected.

A public exhibition will be held later this month, with details released shortly, and a planning application is expected to be submitted later this year.

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TELEVISION

Right man for the job or will Vince fall foul of Lord Sugar?

Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

HE CLAIMS his "very good looks" and positive approach will make him stand out from the crowd.

But as one of the newest set of contestants on hit BBC One show *The Apprentice*, it may take Vincent Disneur more than that to impress hard-nosed business guru Lord Alan Sugar.

The 29-year-old, who lives in Canterbury, will battle it out against 15 others in 12 daunting challenges to prove his worth to Lord Sugar and his eagle-eyed advisors Nick Hewer and Karren Brady.

And his prowess in the field of business will be revealed to millions in the seventh series of the popular show, which begins on Tuesday.

But the sales manager, who works in telecoms software, believes he has what it takes to become Lord Sugar's next apprentice and he isn't afraid to tell people.

In his audition Mr Disneur, who is a self-proclaimed film buff, theatre enthusiast and frequent traveller, claimed to have an "unprecedented amount of business acumen" and believes his "very good looks" will help make him stand out from the rest.

"Smart, vivacious, ambitious – people would describe me as very competitive, extremely passionate, a perfectionist, someone who occasionally likes to show off," he said.

"I have an unprecedented amount of business acumen. I'm a proven model in my industry – a best of breed within it – and I am currently

shortlisted as the best sales personality of the year."

He added: "Is it arrogance? I don't think it's arrogance. It's confidence.

"I believe everyone should be equal. I don't believe that because someone is a success or somebody drives a more expensive car that you should therefore be intimidated.

"I guess that I don't really get intimidated." Glasgow-born Mr Disneur, who is half-Belgian and half Swiss, says his role models are Bill Gates and Richard Branson.

He added: "My positive approach and very good looks make me stand out from the crowd."

The newest series of the show will differ from previous years in that the successful apprentice will no longer win a six-figure-salary job at one of Lord Sugar's businesses.

Instead the winner and their business idea will found the basis of a partnership with Lord Sugar and an investment of up to £250,000.

Speaking to the *Apprentice* hopefuls, the business tycoon said: "I'm going to inject £250,000 worth of cash and value into business, your business, and you're going to run it.

"And I say you're going to run it because don't expect me to be doing all the work because I'm not looking for a 'sleeping partner'.

"I'm not Saint Alan, the patron saint of bloody losers. You can look at it as a bit of an uncivil partnership."

Each task is based on a start-up business designed to push their skills to the limit.

The new series starts on Tuesday at 9pm, with the second episode airing the following day.



CONFIDENT: Vincent Disneur says his 'good looks' will help him stand out from *The Apprentice* crowd

NEWS IN BRIEF

Water watchdog invite

WATER customers are invited to attend the next meeting of the Consumer Council for Water's South East Committee.

The issue of water metering will be one of the main talking points at the event, which will be held in the Voysey Room of Mary Ward House, 5-7 Tavistock Street, London, at 2pm on Wednesday.

Customers of all water firms in Kent are welcome. Call 020 7831 4790 for full details.

Yob attacks pensioner

POLICE are appealing for information after a 72-year-old woman was hit in the head by a stone.

The missile was allegedly thrown by a boy who had been rude to the woman while she was sunbathing on the beach in Marine Crescent, Tankerton, at about 2.15pm on Sunday, April 24.

She needed stitches to close the wound on her head. Anyone with information as to the identity of the boys should call DC Steve Pope on 01227 868127.

Ossie shares secrets

WORLD Cup winner Ossie Ardiles will pay a visit to Tunbridge Wells to give advice to potential stars of the future.

The former Tottenham midfielder, who lifted the World Cup as a member of the 1978 Argentina side, will be in town when his soccer school comes to the town between May 31-June 3.

The course is open to children aged 3-15 who will be split into age and ability groups for sessions running from 10am-3pm.

Visit www.ossieardilessoccerschool.com.

FILM FESTIVAL

Film-makers' efforts 'fitting tribute' to Harry Potter star

MORE than 200 films have been entered into a festival in memory of murdered Harry Potter star Rob Knox.

The event was set up three years ago as a tribute to the young actor, who was stabbed to death in Sidcup in May, 2008, shortly after finishing up his role as Marcus Belby in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*.

Since his murder the Rob Knox Foundation and Bexley Community Safety Partnership have worked hard to raise awareness of knife crime, making visits to schools and becoming involved in projects such as the film festival.

Just 50 films were entered into last year's festival, as opposed to more than 200 this year, tackling subjects from domestic violence to the environment and everything in between.

Bexley cabinet member for community affairs, Cllr Katie Perrior, said: "I am delighted



MURDERED: Harry Potter star Rob Knox (right) with younger brother Jamie and mum Sally

this festival continues to get bigger and more impressive each year.

"I am amazed at the number of entries and the standard of workshops we have on offer. The festival continues to show the very best talent and is a fitting tribute to a young man so tragically killed."

The festival will consist of

nine days of film-related activity starting with an opening night event at the New Generation Church in Birbeck Road, Sidcup, on May 31.

Awards up for grabs include best film, screenwriting, director, actress, actor and more.

■ Call 020 8284 5555 or email mick.wearing@bexley.gov.uk for more information.

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INFRASTRUCTURE

Boris Island a threat to UK growth, says airport boss

By Marijke Cox

Marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE head of Manston airport has backed comments made by a leading budget airline boss that to build a Thames estuary hub would be "absolutely nuts".

Kent International Airport (Manston) chief Charles Buchanan said the focus should be on existing infrastructure in the South East, rather than something "new and speculative".

It follows comments made by Ryanair boss Michael O'Leary about Tory London Mayor Boris Johnson's hopes for a £40 billion floating airport hub – nicknamed Boris Island – in the Thames estuary off the north Kent coast near Medway.

The Government recently ruled out new runways at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, but is also openly opposed to a hub airport in the Thames.

Mr O'Leary told the BBC that Boris Island would not make economic sense, adding: "I think it's absolutely nuts, there's no requirement for any new hub airport."

"London has five airports – you've got Luton, Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted and London City. What we do need urgently in the South East is more runways at those airports."

"I would tear up the agreement at Gatwick and at Heathrow and I would build a second runway at Gatwick and a third runway at Heathrow. This is the only way forward."

"Britain is losing out to Madrid, to Paris and to Frankfurt, who are pushing forward more runways at their existing hub airports."

"Please, please don't waste billions and billions of pounds building another white elephant in the Romney Marshes or wherever it is."

Last year, Prime Minister David Cameron said the Government had no plans for an estuary airport, after Gillingham and Rainham MP Rehman Chishty called for reassurance.

Medway Council and Kent County Council are also opposed to what they have branded a "pie-in-the-sky" idea.

Cllr Alan Jarrett, deputy leader of Conservative-run Medway Council, said the scheme was "unnecessary, unaffordable and unworkable".



NUTS: Mayor of London Boris Johnson's plan for an airport hub in the Thames estuary is unworkable, says Charles Buchanan, of Kent International Airport at Manston

Manston's Mr Buchanan said more should be made of existing infrastructure, particularly at the east Kent airport, which has room for expansion and the capacity to run more flights.

"With a new airport we're talking about 20 or 30 years away. Air travel demand is going to grow substantially in that time," he said.

"The other main London airports are full, so where is the demand going to go?"

"The UK will lose economic prevalence waiting for something to be built."

Mr Buchanan hinted that Manston was being overlooked by Government.

"One of the key things that should be looked at is the expansion of regional airports," he said.

"Manston is key; increasing its use will reduce the pressure on the country's major airports."

He added: "There is an opportunity here for us to develop. This is a regular theme I raise."

FIRE RISK

Blazes caused by hot snap brings fire warning for Kent countryside

FIRE chiefs have issued a warning to take care in the countryside during the dry weather, amid fears Kent could follow in the footsteps of a host of areas across the UK, devastated by out-of-control blazes.

Warm weather and dry conditions have seen hundreds of firefighters tackle fires in Lancashire, Berkshire, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, hindered by strong winds fanning the flames.

The fires have caused huge damage to the countryside and the wildlife which relies on it.

Now Kent Fire and Rescue

Service (KFRS) is urging people to protect the countryside by being extra careful not to start or cause fires through carelessness.

KFRS community safety risk reduction manager, Charlie Smith, said: "During warmer weather, grass and crop fires can be a serious problem for our service, and tie up a huge amount of our valuable fire-fighting resources."

"We want to encourage people to take care and think about what they're doing. For example, drivers should refrain from discarding cigarettes through

car windows while driving along, as this can easily set fire to grass verges, diverting fire crews from life-threatening emergencies to attend to such incidents.

"I would also remind people that throwing cigarettes or any other rubbish from vehicles is regarded as littering and subject to at least a fine."

He added: "Another major problem for us is young people deliberately setting fires. We urge parents to warn them of the dangers of fire, as well as keeping matches and lighters out of their reach."

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Woman killed by bus

A PEDESTRIAN died in hospital five days after being hit by a bus in Maidstone.

Louise Friday, 44, was walking along London Road near the junction with Queens Road when she was struck by a yellow single-decker, at about 2pm last Saturday (April 30).

Police say there would have been many people around at the time and are urging witnesses of the accident or the events leading up to it to come forward. Call 01622 798538.

➔ Police tackle gay men

KENT'S only gay-friendly football team Bexley Invicta will take on Bexleyheath Police FC in a friendly next weekend.

Both sides will be competing for the Aslie Pitter Trophy, named in honour of the man awarded an MBE for tackling homophobia through sport.

The game kicks off at 3pm at Welling United's home ground of Park View Road. A number of local dignitaries will also be in attendance.

➔ Students' boat race

THE fifth annual Universities at Medway Boat Race will be held next Saturday, May 14.

The event, which has been organised by the Universities at Medway Students Association, will be contested by young people from the universities of Kent, Greenwich, and Canterbury Christ Church. The race on the River Medway starts at Cuxton at 10am and finishes at Rochester Esplanade.

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WAR ON TERROR

Al Qaeda will come back stronger after Bin Laden, says 7/7 survivor

Steve Knight speaks with a Kent victim of the 2005 London bombings as the world reacts to the death of the world's most dangerous man



ATROCITIES: The London bombings of July 2007

A SURVIVOR of the 7/7 London bombings says she does not think Al Qaeda has been weakened by the death of its leader.

Beverli Rhodes, from Kennington in Ashford, was one of hundreds caught up in the atrocities of six years ago, when 52 people died and 700 were injured after three tube trains and a bus were blown up by Islamic extremists inspired by Osama Bin Laden.

The 49-year-old underwent major surgery to rebuild her face and was forced to leave her job – which was ironically as a counter-terrorism expert for the security firm Capita Symonds – after struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Mrs Rhodes told KoS that while many of her fellow survivors welcomed Bin Laden's death as a major blow to Al Qaeda, she doubted it would have much of an impact.

She said: "I think there will be some comfort and the general consensus among the few I have



THREAT REMAINS: 7/7 survivor Beverli Rhodes says Osama Bin Laden had gone into isolation and that he was more a spiritual leader than master of al Qaeda operations these days

spoken to is that they feel safer and have gained a degree of closure.

"But as somebody who used to work in counter-terrorism, I do not feel the danger is over. You may be able to cut the head off the snake, but this snake has at least five or six heads and it would be silly to think things will get better just because Bin Laden is dead.

"I don't think it will have any effect on Al Qaeda. If it had been years ago when he was the master terrorist planning all these attacks then it might have made a difference, but he had gone into isolation and was pretty much retired.

"It's good that he has gone but we would probably have been better off getting one or more of his lieutenants instead, as they are

the people who are in control of things now."

Mrs Rhodes was caught up in the attacks of July 7, 2005, while travelling to work on the tube train blown up near King's Cross station.

She was about to get off the train when she was thrown forward into a pole and knocked unconscious as the bomb went off.

As well as suffering severe facial injuries, the grandmother-of-two also suffered injuries to her chest and leg.

"If anything the terrorists will come back stronger, and particularly against America, for what has happened," she said. "In recent years Bin Laden had become more of a spiritual leader, and it become more about serving him than serving Al Qaeda."

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MP urges US forces to make Afghanistan peace a priority

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

AMERICAN troops should refocus their attentions in Afghanistan now that Osama Bin Laden is dead, says Gulf War veteran and Kent MP Adam Holloway.

The Conservative representative for Gravesend has visited the war-torn country at his own expense every year since being elected in 2005, and has repeatedly called for a more intelligence-led approach to ending the conflict that would involve striking deals with reconcilable Taliban leaders.

Mr Holloway said it was important to remember the Taliban and Al Qaeda are not one and the same, and that the death of Bin Laden will only be a positive in Afghanistan if it means the American troops focus on making peace with those members of the Taliban who

have no terrorist connections.

He said: "Since 2005 I've said the vast majority of people we call the Taliban are just normal local people who have no connection with Al Qaeda.

"I hope now Bin Laden is dead it will make it easier for the Americans to appreciate this, because only a very small minority of the people they're fighting against are old crazies.

"Most of the Taliban are only fighting back because they don't like their country being occupied by foreign troops and because they are unhappy with having a corrupt government.

"We should be cutting off that section of the insurgency and making peace with it."

Mr Holloway is a former Grenadier Guards officer who fought in the first Gulf War and was an ITN reporter at the start of the second. He has also worked as an investigative journalist for World in Action, Panorama

and the Sunday Times.

In 2007, five men were sentenced to life after being found guilty of planning to bomb Bluewater – one of the largest shopping centres in Europe.

Members of the public alerted police when they discovered a large amount of ammonium nitrate was being kept at a storage unit in west London.

Had they not, the lives of thousands of Kent shoppers could have been lost.

Just hours after Bin Laden's death in the early hours of Monday, the Home Office website revealed that the current threat level from international terrorism is severe, meaning a terrorist attack is highly likely.

Mr Holloway said: "There is still a danger of radicalisation among impressionable idiots in our country. That threat remains despite Bin Laden's death, so we have to continue to be very, very careful."

Operation's success a 'turning point' for Obama's presidency

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

THE capture and killing of Osama Bin Laden should do wonders for the popularity of President Barack Obama, says an American Democrat living in Kent.

Sandi Carney, 61, from Sevenoaks, is a member of the Democrats Abroad group of expats which has members throughout the county and across the rest of the UK.

She was one of millions who trumpeted Obama's rise to the top of politics in November 2008, but his time in office has been fraught with problems including the economic downturn, the Gulf of Mexico oil spill disaster and even question marks over his own birth certificate.

But all that changed in the early hours of Monday when the President announced that Bin Laden had been shot dead in Pakistan.

Mrs Carney said: "I think this

is absolutely a turning point for Obama, and as far as the popular vote goes I think this will really make a big difference.

"There's a great sense of pride that finally there was a US commando raid that went right. Being old enough to remember a couple that went wrong in Iran and other places, I think our special forces have always tended to blunder into things in the past.

"But apparently the first thing they did when they landed in Pakistan was to speak in Pashto to some of the locals, which shows they obviously went to language school.

"That shows a change in the American response to the world, and they appear to have taken a leaf out of the British SAS approach.

"Whereas George W Bush was a bit gung-ho and crazy in attacking Iraq and Afghanistan after 9/11, Obama has taken a more long-term approach and I'm very

proud we have a President with the brains and foresight to oversee what must have been a very difficult operation."

Mrs Carney is originally from Hawaii and went to university with President Obama's late mother, Ann Soetoro.

News of Bin Laden's death sparked huge celebrations across the United States, most notably in the cities of New York and Washington that fell victim to the terrorist atrocities of September 11, 2001.

"That day had an absolutely shocking impact on America, and it made people realise they were vulnerable to external attacks," said Mrs Carney.

"I personally wouldn't have joined the crowds of people in New York and Washington who gathered to chant 'USA, USA' after Bin Laden's death, but it was touching for me to see a new generation of people who are proud of their country."



TIMELY BOOST: President Obama's popularity will surge says Democrat living in Kent

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REGENERATION

Dreamland purchase order to get work started on attraction

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

COUNCIL leaders say they have been forced to serve a compulsory purchase order on Margate's Dreamland site in a bid to move forward with plans for the world's first heritage amusement park.

It follows ongoing problems agreeing terms of transfer with landowners the Margate Town Centre Regeneration Company to the Dreamland Trust, which was set up to implement the plans.

Thantet council chief executive Richard Samuel said the local authority and trust were determined to continue with the town's regeneration and had already invested large amounts of money to ensure the fun park plans came to fruition.

"Because of the importance of this site to the town's future, we need to take action to ensure that the heritage amusement park goes ahead," he said.

"Huge amounts of money have already been invested to bring this project to fruition and we can wait no longer for agreement from the landowners.

"This is not something we wanted to do, but the failure of the owners to reach a sensible agreement has left us with no choice but to take compulsory purchase action."



"We have been in negotiations for many months now and we feel that we have been generous to a fault.

"This project needs to go ahead. We are fully committed to supporting the Dreamland Trust in making this happen, and that's why we're taking this action."

Millions of pounds have been invested in the project by Thanet council, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

In 2008 a major blaze tore through the old Dreamland site – which includes a cinema – severely damaging listed roller-coaster the Scenic Railway and prompting an overhaul of the park.

Thanet council and the Dreamland

Trust planned to create the world's first amusement park of thrilling historic rides with classic sideshows, vintage cafes, restaurants, special events and gardens.

Council bosses agreed last May that it would start compulsory purchase proceedings on the site if terms were not agreed for the transfer of the freehold of the cinema building and land.

At the time, this had been agreed in principle by the landowners and the land would be given by the council to the Dreamland Trust on a long lease for a peppercorn rent.

But despite detailed negotiations with Margate Town Centre Regeneration Company, the council said it had not been possible to agree an acceptable position, and last week its cabinet agreed to launch compulsory purchase proceedings.

Dreamland Trust chairman Nick Laister said he was delighted the council was proceeding with the compulsory purchase.

"With all the technical work now complete and a substantial part of the funding in place, the acquisition of the site will allow the Trust to commence work on what is a key project for Margate," he said.

KoS was unable to contact the Margate Town Centre Regeneration Company for comment.



OLD-TIME FUN: Listed rides will be restored at Dreamland

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EDUCATION

Government needs to learn by 'listening to the experts'

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

TEACHERS' unions are lashing out against the Government as a year of controversial education policies comes to an end.

The profession has been hit by a number of unpopular decisions since the Coalition was formed last May, including the axing of the Building Schools for the Future project and changes to teachers' pension schemes.

Members of the NASUWT union gave the Government a vote of no confidence at their annual conference last month, with general secretary Chris Keates accusing Education Secretary Michael Gove of "educational vandalism" in a report card on his time in office.

And teachers in Kent are none too impressed either.

Maidstone resident Julia Harris, the NASUWT national executive member for Kent and Medway, said: "The Government is making all these decisions without listening to the experts, and whereas schools used to be accountable to their local authorities, everything now seems to go straight back to Michael Gove."

"The most damaging decision so far has to be the scrapping of the Building Schools for the Future project, as that was a big setback for so many schools throughout the county."

Last month KoS revealed how members of the National Union of Teachers (NUT) were considering going on strike over changes to their pension schemes.

Government ministers want teachers to pay 50 per cent more into their savings than they do at present, despite a change in how their pensions are calculated which could lead to a loss in value of more than £60,000 over the course of their careers.

Mrs Harris admitted that NASUWT members could also end up taking industrial action against the changes.

She said: "To have money taken away that has already been promised to us is obviously a big problem, and we are currently in negotiations over the issue."

"We can hope the Government will move on some aspects, but if not then there will be some militancy. Given what's happened in the past, I don't expect them to listen to us."

Having already agreed to hold a ballot for strike action over the pensions issue,

the NUT has now turned its attentions to the Government's plans to rapidly expand the number of academies in England over the next few years.

Ministers want the independently-run but state-funded schools to become the norm by the end of this Parliament, but the union says the rapid growth is part of a drive towards privatisation.

NUT Kent spokesman John Walder said: "A lot of teachers don't agree with the academy expansion but they're being ignored, and that's part of the problem – there's been no real consultation."

"I think the attitudes of some teachers will change as time goes on, as academies now have a lot more power to change teachers' pay, terms and conditions, and prospects of employment."

"The people who are driving the expansion – Gove and his friends – are against local government and are eager to remove education from its control, despite saying they want to return power to the localities."

"This will almost certainly lead to private companies spouting up and providing an education service without anyone really knowing what standards are expected of them."



BAD REPORT: Michael Gove's policies are not popular with teachers

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IMMIGRATION

Fears Britain about to face new wave of migrants sees border controls tightened

By Marijke Cox

mariike.cox@archant.co.uk

BORDER controls are being stepped up to stop North African migrants trying to smuggle themselves into Britain on high-speed Eurostar trains.

Hundreds of Tunisian and Libyan migrants have set up camp near the Gare du Nord station in Paris where Eurostar trains run to Kent and London.

There are fears the migrants, who are part of a wave of immigration caused by civil unrest in Arab countries, will pay people-smugglers to get them into the county.

It comes as France pushes for tighter border controls with President Nicolas Sarkozy and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi calling for the Schengen Treaty – which allows passport-free movement between 25 EU countries – to be revised. The European Commission is currently preparing



to tighten up border-free travel to tackle large migration flows. Thousands of North African migrants have recently descended on Italy, with Berlusconi begging his French counterpart to share the burden. Hundreds

of migrants are now camped in Paris with hopes of travelling to Britain, after President Sarkozy clamped down on migrants making it harder for them to get work.

Immigration minister and

Ashford MP Damian Green said there were strict British immigration controls in place and additional security checks on transport leaving France for the UK. "We are maintaining this strong regime. Britain has

6699

We are working to build border control capability on both sides of the Mediterranean to avoid unwarranted migration flows into the EU

UK BORDER AGENCY

A spokesman from the UK Border Agency said the situation was being monitored carefully.

"Priority in North Africa is providing humanitarian assistance in the region," he said. "We are monitoring the situation and working with EU countries to build border and immigration control capability on both sides of the Mediterranean to avoid unwarranted migration flows into the EU."

Sixty migrants were arrested in France amid the clamp down of immigration controls in France. Reports stated they had set up camp in Paris with a view to enter England where they believe there is more chance of getting help.

But a spokesman for Euro-tunnel said the company was at a very high level of alert, with state-of-the-art security systems and contact with British and French frontier authorities to ensure they were aware of any current threats.

INSPIRATIONAL SHOW GARDENS - OPENING Sat 21st MAY

It was called a mini Chelsea Flower Show and it's being extended for a second year, with three new gardens - and the four existing ones revamped, so there'll be even more to see.

TV celebrity gardener Joe Swift will officially open*the gardens on 21st May from 12noon - gates open at 11.00am and close at 4.00pm. (After this the gardens can be viewed during normal opening hours).



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ENTERTAINMENT

Comic Fry tweets on wildlife park trip

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

MUCH-LOVED luminary Stephen Fry has paid a visit to Port Lympne Wild Animal Park to film part of a new language documentary.

And despite suffering from severe back pain, the QI presenter said he had had a "simply fabulous time".

On the way to the wildlife park, near Folkestone, on Monday, his mood seemed dour, and he wrote on social networking site Twitter: "Being driven to Lympne for more language documentary filming. Back in agony. Missing snooker final. Far from my favourite day."

But hours later the avid Tweeter's spirits had lifted: "Had a simply fabulous time in Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, despite back."

"Communes with gorillas, capuchin, colobus and Diana monkeys."

Fry – a comedian, actor, broadcaster and writer with a passion for the English language – is also a well-known conservationist.

A vice president for Fauna and Flora International – a charity aiming to conserve biodiversity – Fry has also carried out conservation work through the Healthy Planet charity.

Port Lympne's head of communications, Eddie Kemsley, said it was a pleasure to have the star at the wild animal park.

"Mr Fry is a passionate conservationist, so it was a pleasure to share our work at Port Lympne with him," he said.

"Port Lympne Wild Animal Experience works in conjunction with a world leading conservation charity, The Aspinall Foundation, to protect endangered species across the globe."

He added: "Mr Fry spent the day at Port Lympne to film for a new television programme."

"He was an absolute pleasure to host and we look forward to seeing the result and sharing more details about the project later in the year."

Part of Fry's conservation work saw him join the Save the Rhino campaign at the Royal Geographical Society in 2009.

The Aspinall Foundation has recently added its voice to a growing campaign of awareness which urges governments and individuals to address the issue of rhino poaching in Africa.

Howletts, near Canterbury, and Port Lympne house 19 eastern black rhinos, one of the four subspecies of Black rhino.

The collection is the largest breeding herd of black rhino outside Africa, and has bred 32 calves to date.

Some 800 African rhinos have been killed by poachers for their horns in the past three years.

Animal director at Port Lympne, Adrian Harland, said: "Now more than ever, breeding programmes like ours play a crucial role in the ongoing survival of black rhino."



HERITAGE

Fort Amherst bridges the gap for visitors

PRINCE William has received a wedding present from Kent – a new footbridge named in his honour.

The bridge connects the Great Lines in Gillingham to Fort Amherst in Chatham, which on the day of the ceremony fired off a 21-gun salute to William and his bride, Kate, now Duchess of Cambridge.

It also marked the permanent opening to the public of the fort's parkland, with the the Great Lines Heritage Park also now boasting an extra four hectares of green space for visitors to explore.

This is the final phase in a series of works at the Great Lines Heritage Park funded by central government and the European Union.

Other work has included four kilometres of new pathway, a brand new entrance to the park from Brompton Road (opposite Medway Park) and a low-energy lighting



Picture: SIMON KELSEY

scheme for the fort and memorial.

Chatham World Heritage manager Joanne Cable said: "The new Prince William's Bridge is a tremendous asset for Fort Amherst, the Great Lines Heritage Park, the potential World Heritage Site.

"We look forward to visitors being able to explore the fort and learn about its role in protecting Chatham Dockyard from attack."

Pam Wood, vice-chairwoman of the Friends of Great Lines Heritage Park, added: "The views from the

top of the fort give you a real feel of the area's military past, while looking out at the developments at Rochester riverside gives an insight into the changing face of Medway.

"The area we are so proud of has at last started to come together."

CEREMONY:

A piper plays at the opening of Prince William's Bridge, which will link Fort Amherst to the Great Lines in Gillingham

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ROYAL WEDDING

We go red, white and blue for royal delight

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THE sun shone, the bride shimmered, and the county took to the streets in style to mark the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge - better known as Prince William and Kate Middleton.

Close to 200 street parties took place across Kent - with dozens of other special events taking place in village halls and other venues.

Among those attending the ceremony at Westminster Abbey itself was Allan Willett, the Lord Lieutenant, and the Queen's representative in Kent.

He said this week: "The atmosphere was amazing. Inside, the abbey is quite small and there was an intimate, personal feel to the service which was most moving. Prince William is a lovely man and she is quite beautiful. I was thrilled for both of



HAPPY DAY: The newly titled Duke and Duchess of Cambridge travelled from Westminster Abbey to Buckingham Palace in a horse-drawn carriage

them and wanted to tell everyone how much Kent loves them and is behind them.

"People say no-one can stage events like this as well as the Brit-

ish, and there's no doubt we are very good at it. The whole thing has been a wonderful experience. In Prince William and his bride the future of the monarchy is in very good hands."

WATCHING: While fans saw the wedding on a big screen at Leeds Castle, the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Allan Willett, attended the event in person

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TRIO OF EVENTS:

Street party organisers Paul Aspin, Eleanor Bishop, Julia Suddick and Gaynor Aspin, with the Maypole landlords Kev and Lesley, in Borden, near Sittingbourne; Sitting down together at the Historic Dockyard, Chatham; The streets of Dartford town centre were filled with crowds of well-wishers





FUN: From top left: Happy smiles in Stephens Road, Tunbridge Wells; The residents gathered in Norman Road, Canterbury, and also in Beaconsfield Road in Maidstone; Eastwell Manor in Ashford threw a party; and Gravesend held one of the biggest gatherings in the country



ALL SMILES: Clockwise from left: Families gathered together at Leeds Castle, near Maidstone; Pauline Field and Dee Scott hosted a cake stall in aid of Marie Curie at a party in Borden, near Sittingbourne; Youngsters dressed the part at Dover College; Tables lined Silverdale Road in Tunbridge Wells



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HOMELESSNESS

Charity's plea to change a future as more homeless people ask for their help

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A HOMELESS charity has reported an increase of nearly 25 per cent in a year in the number of people asking for assistance.

Canterbury-based Porchlight said it was approached by 890 people seeking help with finding somewhere to live in 2010, compared to 714 the year before.

Chief executive Mike Barrett told the BBC he expected the rise to continue due to a shortage of suitable rented accommodation, and that many of those seeking help were "sofa-surfing" or staying with friends.

He said: "There are many people in that position, and that's going to get worse as the benefit reforms bite."

"Employment is not out there. What is out there is low-paid employment so people are not able to match the needs of their landlords in terms

of their rent, so it's a problem. It's a nightmare waiting to happen."

Last October Porchlight launched its Change a Future campaign to encourage members of the public to help the charity's outreach team find more rough sleepers.

The project was originally piloted in Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells, Shepway and Ashford before being rolled out across the rest of the country, and is proving highly successful with an average of 40 calls per day.

Strategic manager Chris Coffey said: "The people we are talking about don't appear on the official statistics because they don't go to their local councils and fill in forms to say they are homeless."

"They're very often not engaged in public services so we have to spend a lot of time building relationships before we can even think about addressing issues such as alcohol, drugs and other reasons why they may be on the street."

"You can't just tell them they've got an appointment at 3pm. You need to build up that trust over a cup of tea or cigarette first."

Last March the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, paid a visit to a new 21-bed sheltered accommodation project in Canterbury that was provided by Porchlight. He told KoS at the time that government spending cuts were putting vulnerable people at risk.

Mr Coffey said he was surprised at how many people were calling in with information on rough sleepers.

He added: "It highlights a need. It might be homeless people ringing in themselves or others who may just have found a sleeping bag in a bush or something."

"The people answering the telephones are quite often experienced in this area. About one-third were previously homeless themselves."

Call 0800 567 7699 or visit www.porchlight.org.uk/changeafuture.



OUT: There has been an increase in the number of homeless people asking for help



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ENVIRONMENT

Battle over ancient woodland steps up

By Marijke Cox

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A LEADING conservation charity has vowed to stop the expansion of a ragstone quarry over claims it would destroy precious ancient woodland.

Campaigners from the Woodland Trust are calling on Kent residents to help stop the development, which could see 33 hectares – about 30 football pitches – of land at Oaken Wood in Aylesford, near Maidstone, eaten up by growth.

Planning officers at County Hall have already recommended the expansion of Hermitage Quarry, owned by Gallagher Ltd, with a final decision due on Tuesday.

The planning application stated that at the current production rate at the quarry, the existing reserves at the site would be exhausted within four years. However, this was disputed by the trust based on findings from an independent planning consultant.

Christina Byrne, woods under threat case officer at the Woodland Trust, said the charity “deplored the conclusions” of KCC’s planning report.

She added: “It is pure madness that anyone would sanction grubbing up the UK’s equivalent of the rainforest, which is a finite resource, for a ragstone quarry when it is not even needed to meet local demand.

“The unique conditions of ancient woodland make it our richest wildlife habitat, and it is literally irreplaceable.

“Once destroyed, you cannot recreate it with new planting or by soil translocation, so no mitigation put forward here can compensate for this loss.”

The KCC planning report stated that surveys would need to be carried out at the site to ensure the ecological interests of the area were protected throughout the duration of quarrying operations.

A team of officers from KCC, Natural England, Gallagher Ltd and wildlife specialists would also be set up to help in the management of the site.

Land creating a new habi-

tat for wildlife as well as replanting of native broadleaved woodland was proposed in the application.

But the Woodland Trust said the charity would be taking legal advice and would fight any decision by KCC’s planning committee to accept the findings of the report.

The charity argued that recommendations by KCC to push ahead with the expansion were in contravention of Government planning guidelines, which contain a strong presumption against development in areas of ancient woodland.

The organisation also said the quarrying operations would not only destroy a core area, but would have a huge indirect impact on the neighbouring woodland.

Independent research commissioned by the trust revealed that by fragmenting habitats, species would be unable to move between them and could avoid the woodland near the quarry altogether.

It also found that adjoining land use could cause high levels of dust, sudden or sustained noise and chemical drift several miles downwind, which

would degrade the woodland.

Ms Byrne added: “A staggering 85 per cent of the UK’s ancient woodland has no statutory protective designation, so the trust is well-versed in disputing planning decisions as they affect ancient woods.

“In the last decade we have taken up the cases of 850 of them and currently we are looking at over 400 woods under threat of development, so we are fully prepared to act in defence of Oaken Wood.”

■ Visit www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/oakenwood for more information.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

War veteran struck with MS finishes his rally for heroes



874-MILE TREK: Simon Angel on his mobility scooter with vehicle support driver Mick Weaving

A SOLDIER who suffers from severe Multiple Sclerosis, triggered by wartime trauma, has completed a £10,000 charity trek from John O’Groats to Land’s End – on a mobility scooter.

Simon Angel, 46, from Pembury, near Tunbridge Wells, was a member of the Royal Engineers for 22 years and has served all around the world with front-line experience in Northern Ireland and the Gulf War.

He was awarded an MBE in 2000 and decided to embark on his charity challenge to raise money for the Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes.

Mr Angel said: “There are too many highlights to mention, however driving over the dramatic Cairngorms, paying my respects at the National Memorial Arboretum, passing through Wooten Bassett and reaching Land’s End made an impact.

“My support guy Mick Weaving has been like a rock and I couldn’t have achieved it without him. The past month has been one of the most memorable for me in my whole life, and the final donations – which should hopefully top £10,000 – will help fellow injured servicemen and women who are the true heroes in this story.”

It took Mr Angel 30 days to complete the 874-mile ‘Rally for Remembrance’, which he decided to do while being treated for combat stress at Tyrwhitt House.

■ Visit www.rallyforremembrance.co.uk to make a donation.

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News

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RENOVATION

Developers to give new life to old building

A CRUMBLING listed building is to be brought back to life thanks to funding from Kent County Council's No Use Empty scheme.

Private development company Vernon Investments has secured a loan of £175,000 from the programme, so it can meet the total development costs needed to turn the building in London Road into nine self-contained flats.

The three-storey listed building is more than 100 years old and had fallen into a state of disrepair after standing empty for more than four years. It had been targeted by vandals, the back garden area has become a dumping ground and there was evidence of drug use at the property.

KCC cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, Kevin Lynes, said: "This is a perfect example of how this scheme can make a direct difference to people's lives. The value of these loans goes far beyond just renovating a property."

COUNCIL SPENDING

KCC to scrap private health insurance for its senior managers

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

COUNTY Hall finance chiefs are planning to scrap a controversial health insurance scheme for senior workers.

The provision of private healthcare only exists in a small number of local authorities, but last November Kent County Council came fourth in a national league table after splashing out almost £200,000 on expensive premiums for just 250 employees.

Fiona McEvoy, campaign manager for the Taxpayers' Alliance, said at the time: "It's ridiculous that council top brass have been treated to private medical treatment with taxpayers' money."

"If they want to go private then they can choose to do so, but they should pay for it out of their own generous salaries. We already pay for the NHS, and if that's good enough for us then it should be good enough for senior managers at KCC."

Ms McEvoy's comments appear to

have been taken on board by the authority, which has now proposed to scrap the scheme to deliver savings of £200,000.

The plan will go before full council for approval on Wednesday.

It was noted in a report to members that authorities including Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service and some colleges also access the insurance scheme.

The report read: "Over recent years the provision of employee benefits has moved on. Schemes such as SOMI (Senior Officer Medical Insurance) are now inequitable since it could be argued that supporting staff responsible for frontline delivery is just as important."

"Given the relatively low numbers of people covered, the costs involved and the unsustainable basis of its provision, the scheme is not now seen as being fit for purpose."

"The personnel committee recommends county council approve the withdrawal of the SOMI scheme and

HEALTHY CUT:

The move will save almost £200,000 in expensive healthcare premiums



agree that it ceases operation, including ongoing commitments, by the end of this financial year."

It was revealed last November that a total of about £2.9 million was spent on private healthcare last year for more than 5,000 members of staff at 56 councils throughout the UK.

The most senior officers at KCC pay their own medical insurance premiums, but 250 other managers had

the £750 bill paid for them last year.

The figures were revealed by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, which requested data from councils across the UK to identify areas in which it felt they could save money without cutting vital services for residents.

KCC needs to save £9.5m this year, followed by a further £6.5m next year after its government funding was slashed by 10 per cent.

ROAD SAFETY

Weeks of walking aim to cut traffic and help improve our health too

TEACHERS, parents and children are being encouraged to walk to school in Medway over the next fortnight.

Walk to Work Week runs from May 9-13 and Walk to School Week from May 16-20, with Medway council's road safety team urging everyone to get involved.

The aim of the challenges is for schools to achieve the highest number of walks possible. The school that wins will be presented with a trophy and certificate to celebrate their success.

Safer journeys officer James Sutton said: "We want residents to ask themselves whether going

by car is necessary. Walking increases our road awareness, which is particularly important for children and young people to learn."

Active travel co-ordinator Hazel Gallagher added: "We hope we can help people foster a new-found fondness for walking, to improve their health, wallets and also contribute to reducing the number of cars on our roads. This will have a significant impact on a pedestrian's journey to make it a much more pleasant and ultimately a safer one."

Contact Mr Sutton on 01634 331399 or email james.sutton@medway.gov.uk for more details.



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News

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RESTORATION

Forensic tests used to reveal rare furniture's hidden secrets

By Jenna Pudelek

jenna.pudelek@archant.co.uk

A FASCINATING project to discover what happened to important antique furniture over the centuries is set to be launched at Knole.

Experts at the National Trust house in Sevenoaks will carry out forensic examinations on a Queen Anne period sofa and two chairs, which are hundreds of years old, before they are restored.

Freelance textile conservator Kate Gill will be working on the furniture using non-invasive techniques including UV light and magnification for her investigation. She will also be taking samples to analyse the weave, fibre and dyes.

The trust said that historic records showed previous residents at Knole had tried to preserve the collection in ways that would horrify conservators today. For example, the 1864 inventory of the house refers to "a blue and white embroidered satin counterpane with fringe border", which was "cut up to cover chairs [and] stools".

But no one really knows how the three pieces of furniture were made and have been treated, preserved, re-upholstered, patched, damaged or mended in hundreds of years.

Visitors will be able to see Ms Gill at work in the Reynolds Room from June 1-3 and 8-10.

Knole's furniture is of international significance with many pieces from the royal

palaces including the lost palace of Whitehall, which was destroyed by fire in 1698.

The trust said the collection needed urgent conservation with the colours faded and delicate silks shredded.

A spokeswoman said: "Before a major conservation project on the furniture gets underway, we need to know more about how the furniture was made, what materials were used in the construction and, most interestingly, what has happened to them over the centuries. While the three pieces chosen cannot tell us everything about Knole's collection, knowing what lies beneath will be of enormous importance in planning its conservation."

The forensic examination of the furniture is part of a wider conservation project at Knole. Already a strikingly realistic 3D photographic wallpaper has replaced the contents of the Reynolds Room. The room is one of 13 unheated, dark, draughty and leaky showrooms, which are being restored to protect their valuable content.

All the paintings, including works by the influential 18th century artists Joshua Reynolds and Thomas Gainsborough, and furniture has been removed.

Over the winter, the windows were sealed with new lead, the floor and ceiling insulated, and the wall rewired and primed with environmental monitors.

The vinyl photographic wallpaper was then fastened into place. A room-sized electric



DELVING DEEP: This chair is part of the Knole collection which will be subjected to a series of forensic examinations

heating mat has been placed on the floor and a further three standing heaters brought in, which will gently heat the space when humidity levels rise above a certain level.

More than 90,000 visitors will pass through the room this summer breathing out moisture and shedding dust.

The trust said this was an essential part of the project. The room will be monitored to find the most stable conservation conditions.

Once these have been discovered the panoramic will be removed, the wall insulated and proper lighting installed. Then everything will be put back and the Reynolds Room will return to its former glory.

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CRIME

MP working to stop women re-offending

MAIDSTONE MP Helen Grant is campaigning to break the cycle of re-offending by female ex-prisoners.

The former family lawyer, who serves on the House of Commons Justice Committee, visited two of the county's prisons to see what is being done to tackle the problem.

She admitted she was concerned that short-term sentences were less effective for women than men.

"Robust community sentences can be a successful alternative in keeping women out of prison and preventing re-offending," she said.

"We have around 4,000 women in British prisons, and most are serving short sentences, with 64 per cent serving less than six months.

"Those serving short sentences are not subject to supervision on release, and their prison stay

isn't long enough to provide rehabilitation.

"The result is a vicious circle of family breakdown, children being taken into care and re-offending, at huge cost to the taxpayer."

Mrs Grant said she was looking to visit women's prison HMP Holloway to see how staff use education to rehabilitate prisoners.

She has also been in contact with The Corston Independent Funders' Coalition and Make Justice Work, two organisations looking to break the cycle of re-offending.

In Kent, the Maidstone and the Weald representative, who was elected last year, visited HMP East Sutton Park, an open female prison in a large country estate in Sutton Valence, and HMP Maidstone, an all-male Victorian prison in the town centre, with capacity for 600 inmates.

"The two prisons could not be more different," she said. "But they both provide excellent care and a complete range of rehabilitation programmes designed to ensure that people leaving their charge, do so with the best possible opportunities to engage with the employment market and become contributing members of the community."

Mrs Grant said she will be working with prison and rehabilitation organisations to see if more can be achieved to reduce re-offending.

Serving on the Justice Committee alongside 11 other members, Mrs Grant helps scrutinise the policy, administration and spending of the Ministry of Justice.

Members also examine the work of the Attorney General, the Solicitor General, the Serious Fraud Office and the Crown Prosecution Service.



PRISON VISITOR: MP Helen Grant with Andy Hudson, governor of HMP Maidstone

NHS

Trust back on track after warning from watchdog

By Jenna Pudelek

jenna.pudelek@archant.co.uk

HOSPITAL bosses say their finances are back on track, despite strong criticism from a health watchdog.

Monitor, the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts, last week fired a warning shot across the bow of the Medway NHS Foundation Trust, saying it was in "significant breach" of duties relating to its foundation status.

In response, the trust said it admitted it had failed to meet its financial plans for 2010/11 and had tightened its plans for the current year accordingly.

But should it fail to hit the measures insisted upon by Monitor, it could face the regulator intervening. The watchdog's powers include removing any or all of a trust's directors or governors, and closing specific services.

The trust is also considering a money-saving merger with Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust.

Dr David Bennett, chair of the regulator, said: "We've taken this decision due to concerns about the level of board challenge on financial issues and about the trust's plans to return to a stable financial footing.

"As the regulator of foundation trusts, it's our role to make sure that they are well-led, that their boards are focused on the quality of care patients get and that they are financially strong – but we

don't performance manage them.

"The trust's board is accountable to the community for the effective delivery of services, and responsible for identifying problems and addressing them. We only take action if a trust doesn't deal with issues quickly and effectively.

"Monitor will continue to work with the board at Medway NHS Foundation Trust to ensure that it takes the action necessary to make a sustainable return to full compliance, and that it does so at an appropriate pace.

"We will also continue to work closely with the CQC (Care Quality Commission) to ensure the continued provision of high quality services to the patients the trust serves. If evidence suggests the trust is not addressing issues effectively, we will consider whether further regulatory action is appropriate."

Monitor said it would not use its formal intervention powers, but would continue to review the trust's progress.

A spokesman for the trust said: "The trust board is naturally disappointed with this announcement, but understands why Monitor is taking this precautionary measure.

"The trust's financial plans for 2010/2011 were ambitious, with a savings target of £15 million, of which more than 90 per cent of planned savings were achieved. The shortfall, coupled with other significant one-off losses in the year, led to the trust failing to

meet its financial plans in 2010/11. The trust board has ensured that financial plans for the current financial year are more robust.

"In all other respects, the hospital performed well last year, exceeding all patient access targets and achieving the best infection control performance in the south east coast region.

"Patients can also be reassured that the trust's commitment to offering the highest standard of care, as measured by the Care Quality Commission, remains unaffected.

"The board will be working closely with Monitor to return to compliance as soon as possible."

Meanwhile, the troubled trust is looking at the possibility of merging with the Dartford and Gravesham trust to ensure long-term sustainability.

The move has been put down to the Government's major shake-up of the NHS set out in the controversial Health and Social Care Bill, which has now been 'paused' after much criticism, and increasing financial pressures.

Integrating the trusts would reduce management costs and maximise the use of each hospital's facilities, the spokesman said.

A feasibility study is being carried out and the trusts said they would consult with staff, patients and other interested parties. The trusts are aiming for the merge to be approved by April 2012.

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COMPETITION

WIN tickets to Leeds Castle Open Air Classical Concert

THE Leeds Castle Open Air Classical Concert on Saturday, July 16, led by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's signature blend of superb music and stunning spectacle, features a prestigious line-up and welcomes back award-winning actor Robert Powell as the narrator.

And you could be there for free, thanks to our great competition.

Stirring performances, under the baton of much respected conductor John Rigby, will be given by many well known classical names, such as soprano singer Elizabeth Watts, baritone Richard Morrison, and Wynne Evans.

Mr Evans, one of the UK's leading tenors, is also known as Gio Compario from the Go Compare adverts. He shot to the top of the classical charts with his debut album A Song In My Heart.

One of the UK's leading tenors, Mr Evans has sung as a principal at leading opera houses including Royal Opera House, Welsh National Opera and English National Opera, and performed at more than 20 Welsh rugby Internationals.



TOP TENOR: Wynne Evans, aka Gio Compario, will perform at Leeds

The vocal talents of Capital Voices will also be performing a number of West End songs from the hits of the Abba musical Mamma Mia.

The dynamic conductor/orchestra partnership promises to provide an exceptional and diverse musical repertoire, accompanied by spectacles such as a nostalgic flypast by two Spitfires marking the 75th anniversary of this iconic aeroplane.

Billed as one of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's favourite events, John Rigby said: "What a great show this is, 12,000 people all stood waving flags and as the Spitfires flew past hairs stood on the back of my neck last year. We can't wait for this year's event."

The concert is sponsored by Archant KOS Media, BBC Radio Kent and Davis Renault of Sevenoaks.

We have four pairs of tickets to give away. To be in with a chance of winning one of them, simply answer the following question:

Q) Who will be narrating this year's concert?

A) Robert Powell

B) Brian Blessed

C) Terry Wogan

To enter, text CONCERT1, then a space, then your answer, and your name and address, to 64343.

Texts cost £1 plus standard network rates. Closing date is May 17. Entries received after the closing date will not be counted but you may still be charged.

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For full terms and conditions go to www.heritageevents.co.uk/terms.php.

Tickets are on sale now for the Classical Open Air Concert at £34 each for picnic style and only £44 each in the seated areas.

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LITERATURE

Sci-fi author leads e-book revolution

By Mathew Beech

mathew.beech@archant.co.uk

A SCI-FI novelist is leading a literary revolution as he begins an interactive e-book project.

Stewart Ross, from Blean, near Canterbury, published the first chapter of his story The Soterion Mission on Friday, with online readers able to guide the direction of the plot by voting on a series of options.

"It's a new way of getting young adults into reading via the internet," said Mr Ross.

"At the end of each chapter there will be a three-way vote which will be made online.

"The future of the written word is definitely in some electronic form or another so I'm really excited to be part of this venture.

"It's not 100 per cent different to how Dickens worked, releasing single episodes at a time and letting the readers influence the story.

"I see the story like a valley, but the course of the river is determined by the reader.

"A new chapter is released at 3.30pm, so the audience gets a chance to read it after work or school, then they get to vote on what happens next and the results are fed to me on the Monday, giving me a few days to write the next chapter."

With some 250 published works, Mr Ross is one of Britain's most popular authors and has won prizes from, among other bodies, the Arts Council, the Times Literary Supplement and the American Library Association.

The Soterion Mission is set in the year 2090 when a disease has limited the human life span to less than two decades.

If the project is successful there are already plans for a sequel.

Read the first chapter by visiting the website: www.fictionexpress.co.uk.



CHALLENGE

Scooter record bid

TWO women who suffer from multiple sclerosis are to take part in the first mobility scooter 24-hour endurance challenge.

Jackie Weeden and Kate Davies, of the Red Wheelies formation display team, will attempt to break a Guinness World Record at Fowlmead Country Park, near Deal, next weekend.

The event runs from 1pm on Saturday, May 14, until 1pm on the Sunday, with a traditional funfair, classic car/bike show and more on offer.

ENVIRONMENT

Waste licence offence

A WASTE company has been ordered to pay £87,000 for continued breaches of its licence.

Orpington-based Sitec Ltd pleaded guilty to allowing sewage to leak into a nearby beauty spot, and storing significantly more waste than the site could cope with.

The company was fined £75,000 plus £12,000 court costs when the Environment Agency case was heard at Bromley Magistrates' Court.

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EDUCATION

Carnage at college highlights dangers of careless driving

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

STUDENTS of K College in Tonbridge found out exactly what it would be like to be cut from the wreckage of a car when Kent Fire and Rescue Service carried out a demonstration using two students as 'victims'.

Principal Bill Fearon was among those getting involved in the project, designed to highlight the dangers of driving to the students.

He was strapped into a seat belt machine, which gives the passenger an idea of what an impact feels like at between eight and 10mph.

He said: "We have a high proportion of young people who drive now, and who use cars to come to college, and this is essential for their understanding of why they must use a seat belt and other road safety laws.

"The seat belt machine doesn't look like it's going that fast, but the impact is quite significant. I would think anyone with false teeth would have seen them flying out across the pavement – I'm glad I've got my own!"

The demonstration is called Car'n'age and aims to encourage young drivers and passengers to be responsible for their own and others' safety while driving.

Tutors who set up the visit at the Brook Street campus said many students were shocked by what they had seen.

For public services student, Sam Wild, 29, from Longmead in Tonbridge, it brought back memories of when she was involved in a serious car accident when she was seven.

She explained: "My Dad was driving when he hit a patch of black ice

and hit a tree. We had to be cut out of the car, but I didn't remember much about it because I was so young. There was a lot of noise.

"This has really brought it back, and a lot of people in our class say it has really made them realise how important safety is."

Two students volunteered to be in the car cut open by the fire crew.

One of them, Jasmine Card, said: "It was scary. I was in a really compacted space and I definitely wouldn't want to be in that position for real."

Ijaz Ahmedzai, added: "I don't ever want to be in that position again. The fire crews did a great job, but it was frightening."

The Tonbridge fire crews visited K College's North Farm campus in Tunbridge Wells in the afternoon.

■ See www.yourtonbridge.co.uk for news updated regularly.



CRASH SHOCK: Students with the cut-up car, and below, Bill Fearon in the hot seat

JARGON

How Rick Astley has a lot to answer for online

THERE'S no doubt that our vocabulary has changed in a very short space of time – a lot of it thanks to the internet.

Our conversations seem littered with jargon on a daily basis, much of which hadn't been heard of before the computer age: world-wide-web, jpeg, blogs, tweets, WAV, webcasts, spam, URL, and the list goes on.

A recent new one to me is the term 'internet meme'. What on earth does that mean?

Well, apparently an 'internet meme' is a 'bait and switch'; basically it's when a person provides a hyperlink that they claim is relevant to a particular topic, but when the user clicks on the link they are taken to a completely different site.

A great example of this is 'Rick Roll' – when internet users are tricked into thinking they are logging on to one particular site but are taken straight to a video of Rick Astley performing his 1987 hit Never Gonna Give You Up!

The pop star wasn't responsible for the craze, but it has certainly not done his career any harm and this meme has proved so popular it has even been copied by a group of American state politicians, who slipped the lyrics of Astley's number one hit into their speeches on the floor of the House of Representatives.

They did it under the noses of colleagues, lobbyists, staff and the public and then released a YouTube video on April Fool's Day that went viral and has had 780,000 views.

The practical joke was masterminded by Jefferson Smith, a Portland Democrat who managed to persuade his colleagues to speak the lyrics of the pop ballad a word or phrase at a time.

JULIE MADDOCKS VIEWPOINT...



This idea itself isn't entirely new, I heard my boys discussing a similar scheme that they have often played, particularly at work.

One of my son Matt's part-time jobs, as he funds his way through university, is in a call centre. To brighten their working day their mission was to include certain phrases or words within their conversations with customers.

All very childish, I know, but it makes the day go faster and it's not hurting anyone.

It reminded me of my years on local radio when I was often 'set up'. On one occasion someone decided it would be fun to include an imaginary animal in the list of appeals I was due to read in our lost and found pets spot.

The script read something along these lines:

"The next cat has gone missing in Tonbridge. He's an old, grey scruffy tabby, with one eye, half his left ear missing, a broken tail, and three legs who answers to the name of Lucky!"

Sadly, I hadn't had time to pre-read the announcement and was half way through reading it when I realised I'd been had.

Oh, how we laughed. It's just as well we were good friends at the time, and I'm glad to say, remain so today.

I know – with friends like that...

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EDUCATION

College students hear Paralympian's inspirational story

By Jenna Pudelek

jenna.pudelek@archant.co.uk

A PARALYMPIC world champion rower has paid a visit to a further education college to inspire students.

Alastair McKean, 32, spent the day at Hadlow College and explained to the young people how he overcame personal problems to achieve sporting success.

His visit was part of his role as an athlete mentor for Sky Sports Living for Sport, which is an initiative in partnership with the Youth Sport Trust that aims to use the power of sport to encourage 11 to 16-year-olds to strive for the best.

Mr McKean said: "I know first-hand how much of a positive effect sport can have across all areas of an individual's life – on both a personal level as well as a professional one.

"I hope that, by sharing my life story and the influences sport has had on me as a person, I can help these students see how lessons learnt from taking part, such as building the confidence to lead or developing the social skills required to become an effective team player, can help them

fulfil their full potential."

During his visit last Thursday, he worked with 25 students and ran a practical team building session before spending the afternoon helping the young people set personal and professional goals.

Katie Major, school sports coordinator at Hadlow College, said: "Alastair McKean provided our students with a real-life example of how, whatever their ambitions in life, lessons learned through sport can help them realise their dreams and reach their full potential.

"We were delighted to welcome such a high profile and inspiring figure to our school and the students looked forward to the day with immense pride and anticipation."

The initiative was created to encourage students to develop and apply life skills learned through participating in sport, such as confidence, respect, and a sense of achievement, helping them to believe in themselves and their ability to achieve their goals.

It is provided through online planning tools, resources and a supply of free sports clothing. It helps teachers to support young people across



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I know first-hand how much of a positive effect sport can have across all areas of an individual's life, on a personal and professional level

ALASTAIR MCKEAN, ON SPORT

areas such as attainment and achievement, health and well-being and self-esteem. The initiative has been running for eight years.

Mr McKean is among 23 sports stars chosen as athlete mentors, who all have inspiring personal journeys.

Mr McKean, who comes from Canterbury, won a bronze medal in the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games. He started rowing in 1994, at Herne Bay Amateur Rowing Club.

As a talented junior rower he won various medals before he was involved in a serious road accident in 1999.

A bird flew into his visor while he was riding a motorbike, which knocked him off balance and caused a head-on collision with a lorry.

It left him with a loss of 80 per cent function in his right arm.

■ For more information about the initiative visit <http://livingforsport.skysports>.

WORDS OF WISDOM:

Alastair McKean (fourth left, back row) was a visitor at Hadlow College in his role as an athlete mentor for Sky Sports Living for Sport

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OPINION

Room to heal the whole person

Dr Gareth Tuckwell, chief executive of Burrswood Hospital, explains the thinking behind the spiritual and medical care offered to patients

HEALTHCARE today is so often seen in terms of specialties, sub-specialties and procedures, rather than being centred round individuals and the totality of their need: a need that often springs from isolation.

In the UK, almost seven million people live alone, nearly a third of whom have a chronic or progressive disease.

Medical care is changing, because of superb diagnostic tools as well as the pressures of an ageing population. In the UK we have the additional pressures faced by the NHS. Doctors struggle to think outside the box.

Evidence-based medicine and technology, whilst commendable, mean doctors rarely see the need to question cogently, listen carefully or observe keenly. The clinical diagnosis is discovered on the screen or in the test results, but is that enough?

So often we find the patient's story has not been heard prior

to their admission. With a speedy consultation the sensitivity to language and emotion is lost and the real cause of malaise and dysfunction is often missed. We can fail to see the person in the patient.

As far as spiritual care goes, with NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) driven to balance the books and only spend on 'best value', there is growing evidence that employing chaplains is a low priority.

Yet, whatever our faith or lack of it, within us all is a search for meaning. Each one of us has spiritual needs which tend to surface in times of illness. We need opportunities to make sense of whatever comes our way.

Burrswood is much more than just a hospital and the breadth of what goes on astonishes visitors. It is a place apart, a place of healing, spacious, much prayed in and with a pervading sense of peace.

Bishop Morris Maddocks used to say that in our rushed, instant, microwaved world, space is often needed to heal; space with God, in the beauty of His creation and space filled with the presence of prayer.

But Burrswood is also a place of professional and clinical expertise. We have 40 beds for inpatients, most of whom come for short-term medical and post-operative care.

From the outpatients department to the hydrotherapy pool; from the work with those with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, post-traumatic stress and burn-out to the rehabilitation of those wanting to keep mobile and at work, despite their progressing disease, to 24/7 palliative care where not only nurses but also resident doctors and chaplains can be with you and your family at whatever time the need is there.

Burrswood must be there for the increasing number of people



6699

Space is often needed to heal; space with God in the beauty of His creation

who fall through the gaps in healthcare provision. The demand for beds is strong, but we long for everyone to realise we are delivering cutting edge care and are regarded as a centre of excellence.

The chair of a nearby PCT says we undersell ourselves, and they have no concerns about our 'Christian' label; they go for our values, our added value and ability to offer complex care.

On reflection, all that Burrswood Hospital and Place of Healing has to offer has never been more needed.

■ The hospital in Groombridge was founded by Dorothy Kerin in 1948, funded by donations.

Kerin, who died in 1963, pioneered what is now known as 'whole person care'. She believed in bringing together medicine and Christian healing. Burrswood became a fully-registered hospital in 2000. It is run by a charity.

KOS COMMENT

Osborne offers new hope for Pfizer site

THE future could be looking brighter for business in Kent.

New hope came in the form of a hint from Chancellor George Osborne that the Pfizer site was a good location for an Enterprise Zones.

There are also welcome plans for a green energy park near the site that could create hundreds of jobs.

Pfizer's decision to pull out of Sandwich dealt a devastating blow to the whole of east Kent.

But there is clearly a future for the area and now councils and businesses must work together to promote it.

Can county's hopeful impress Lord Sugar?

OVERBLOWN claims about business prowess and boardroom battles are back as The Apprentice returns to our screens.

Canterbury's Vincent Disneur is among the 15 hopefuls competing.

The show is compulsive viewing for millions so let's hope Vincent lives up to his claims of 'unprecedented business acumen'.

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Wingham Wildlife Park
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Council need backbone

ON reading her letter of April 24, some people might be misled into feeling sympathy for poor Mrs Dean, the leader of the Lib Dems on the county council and chairman of the cabinet scrutiny committee.

Paul Carter, Conservative leader of the council, has been horrid and won't let his junior coalition partner publicly scrutinise the official report into KCC's response to the damning report on its children's services.

Mrs Dean should know that she can place any item on the agenda of the cabinet scrutiny committee provided it relates to any decision or action of the council's elected executive (the cabinet) or its officers.

It is also Mrs Dean's decision as to whether a committee meeting goes ahead or not.

The leader of the council cannot dictate what subjects are discussed or when they are discussed. That is Mrs Dean's decision and she has the power of local government legislation behind her.

Carter may try to argue that the report should be scrutinised in a closed session in order to protect individual named clients, but Mrs Dean wants to look at "how KCC proposes to tackle the backlog of neglect". So little, if anything, in the report is likely to be confidential to individuals and that could be dealt with appropriately at the meeting if required.

If Carter refuses to turn up to a scrutiny committee meeting, as Mrs Dean suggests he would, then all he would be doing is confirming publicly that he is not interested in being open and transparent about bringing children's services up to standard. If he refuses to release the report to the scrutiny committee then an item can still go on the agenda requiring that refusal to be justified.

As it is, the meeting programmed for April was abandoned. That was a decision by Mrs Dean as chairman.

What is really needed at County Hall is a little more backbone and a lot less complacency from the chairman of the cabinet scrutiny committee. Then we might get the open-

ness and transparency that Mr Carter and Mrs Dean both claim they want.

Mike Eddy, Deal

Show support to care staff

TRUDY Dean says we should be working together to make improvements to Kent's children's social care as quickly as possible. That is exactly what we are doing.

All Kent County Council members have the opportunity to be as hands-on as they want, and we are all determined to play our part in achieving the council's top priority.

Two member-led panels, the first of which met last week, are making sure Ofsted's requirements are met and that we fulfil our corporate parenting role of delivering the best support and outcomes for children in our care.

Mrs Dean has no reason to feel blocked or cynical. I could not have been more open and honest about the challenges we're facing and our determination to transform children's social care.

Three weeks ago I sent

all members a copy of the improvement plan and offered to answer any questions and take feedback. I have also introduced a 'shadow a social worker' scheme so members can fully appreciate the work our dedicated team does on a daily basis at the coalface.

It's these workers who are paramount in my mind. We have taken on board the findings from Ofsted, court judgments and serious case reviews. Now is the time for everyone to come together and support those people who have one of the most challenging jobs in public service.

Jenny Whittle, cabinet member for specialist children's services, KCC

It's time to fix our harbours

AFTER eight years of neglect by Thanet council's Tory administration, Margate Harbour is now in its worst state since John Rennie's stone harbour arm was first constructed early in the 19th century.

Due to the constant build-up of silt that has been allowed, there is now insufficient depth

of water to accommodate any reasonable sized sailing or motor vessel, and boat owners have been forced to moor their craft elsewhere.

Sitting on the front patio of the new Turner gallery should be a great experience, with the view to the west over Margate main sands for both residents and visitors alike. However, if the tide is not covering the rotting seaweed and mud in the harbour, a very unpleasant aroma is likely to soon drive most people inside.

At Ramsgate Royal Harbour marina, the neglect is even more marked. The absence of any planned maintenance programme has resulted in health and safety problems with pontoons and ladders, and the build-up of silt in the inner marina.

Sections of the main commercial quay are now no-go areas due to subsidence. Large weeds grow out of the basin walls and some of the pontoons at the eastern end are so old and unstable that they have even received their own 'Royal Historic' plaque.

The pier yard is a disgrace, decorated with its own rotting hulk on prominent display

alongside the detritus-strewn listed Smeaton dry dock.

Meanwhile, the Grade II-listed maritime museum, closed for years, becomes ever more run down. From the snapped-off flag pole to the smashed windows and yards of unsavoury graffiti to the rear, neglect is everywhere.

Something urgently needs to alter the years of laissez faire mismanagement of Margate and Ramsgate harbours, a change of administration at Thanet council would be the swiftest way to achieve this.

John Watkins, Margate

Tories are anti-England

ERIC Pickles' comments on the EU's planned 'Arc Manche' region to bring together southern England and northern France were rather surprising.

He told the Daily Express that "Labour ministers have been caught red-handed conspiring with European bureaucrats to wipe England off the map and replace our historic boroughs, counties and cities with transnational Euro-regions", rather giving the impression he was unaware of what had been going on over the last few years.

I'm struggling to understand how that can be, given that senior Tory Brad Watson, a county councillor in West Sussex, is currently vice-president of the Channel Arc Manche Assembly. How can it be that they were unaware of the Arc Manche region given their representation on this committee?

Could it be another case of the Tories wishing to appear to defend British interests in the EU while behind closed doors handing over yet more sovereignty to Brussels?

Nigel Farage, South East MEP, UK Independence Party

Buy a book to help charity

I WOULD like to inform all KoS readers of the creation of a new charity called The Book System, which raises money for air ambulance trusts.

This charity will be selling new and old books via major supermarkets in their car parks. Call 01926 640979 or email thebooksystem@aol.com for more information.

Nigel L Walton, The Book System

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My Money 24

Online this week at
www.mymoney24.co.uk:

Linking into the base rate works both ways

Q My husband and I have a joint credit card account with Halifax, which says it will now link interest charges to the Bank of England base rate. Does this mean what it suggests? Will our interest go down if there is a cut in the official rate, or up if there is an increase? Or is it a one-way street, with rises but no reductions? Will this apply to other card companies as well?

A The good news is that this is not a one-way street. If the Bank of England cuts its interest rate then so will Halifax. The bad news is that with interest rates as low as they are, a cut is virtually impossible and a rise is virtually inevitable. And there are more changes on the way. From August, each cardholder will be allocated a personal interest rate. There will no longer be different rates for purchases and cash withdrawals. If you and your husband use your card only for shopping, you could see interest charges reduced, Halifax says. But if you draw cash as well, your interest will be higher. The Bank of England rate will be added to your personal interest rate, starting in November, and this will change whenever the Bank's base rate changes. Your personal rate could also change if there is any alteration in your use of the card, such as missing repayments or making heavier use of cash withdrawals. However, not all Halifax cardholders will be affected right away. If you took out your card within the past six months or if you have the Clarity card, the way your interest charges are calculated will not be changed until next year. No other card issuer is following the same path yet, but if Halifax shows it can increase its profits by squeezing a bit more out of its customers, others are likely to follow suit.

Q We claim working tax credit and child tax credit, and the amount we get has gone down, even though our income in April was the same as we had for March.

A The chancellor, George Osborne, announced new rules in his first budget last June, and those rules came into effect last month. For example, the amount of help you can get with childcare costs dropped from 80pc to 70pc. And the extra credit that was paid for babies under one year old has been scrapped completely. Another big change is that over the past year, if your total income was under £50,000, your basic child tax credit payments would not be reduced. Now the limit has dropped to £40,000. Without knowing all the details of your income and family circumstances, I cannot be sure why your credit income has fallen, but these are the biggest changes that are likely to hit you. If you think the answer lies elsewhere, the official Tax Credit Helpline (0845 300 3900)

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC



should be able to explain.

Q I read your recent advice, saying that it was no longer legal to make people retire just because they have reached 65. Can you answer two questions, please, and say whether I can draw my state pension but still carry on working – and, if so, will I be liable for national insurance contributions?

A There is nothing to stop you drawing your state pension and still working. Remember, though, that the state pension is taxable, so when it is added to your earnings, a chunk will almost certainly go to the tax man. One alternative, of course, is to postpone taking your pension. Do this and you will get a nice increase in the amount paid when you really do retire. As for national insurance, your employer will still have to pay contributions, but once you reach 65 you are exempt, even if you still work.

Q I am applying for a life policy and have been asked whether or not I smoke. Do I have to answer?

A If you refuse to answer, you will be turned down by the life company – it is as simple as that! Bluntly, smokers are more likely to die than non-smokers of the same age, so the life company is more likely to have to pay out. Companies do not like to say that they charge smokers extra but, typically, they will offer discounts to non-smokers.

Q The Post Office is paying 3.95pc interest on its cash Isa. This seems quite good. What do you think?

A The headline figure from the Post Office (0800 169 7500) looks good, but this is a three-year deal with a fixed rate of interest. Do you really want to tie up your money for this long, when interest rates generally are certain to rise, leaving you behind? True, you can make withdrawals, but penalties apply. Instead, consider the one-year Isa at 3.01pc, or compromise on the two-year account with interest at 3.45pc.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.



CLAIM WHAT'S YOURS: Families who receive tax credits should renew their claims as soon as possible to stop the payments drying up.

Renew your claim or lose your credits

PEOPLE who receive tax credits are being urged to renew their claims or face seeing their payments dry up.

Renewal packs are being sent to claimants and HM Revenue & Customs said it was important for them to check them as soon as possible.

"We ask people to renew their tax credits as soon as they receive their packs," said HMRC director of

benefits and credits Steve Lamey.

"They need to make sure their details are correct. The sooner they renew, the sooner we can make sure they are getting the right money. It's simple – if they don't renew their claims before July 31, payments may stop."

People who receive tax credits are also being warned that HMRC car-

ries out checks on the information it is given.

Claimants need to let HMRC know of any changes in their circumstances – including working hours, childcare costs or pay – that haven't already been reported during the past year.

There are more than 160,000 tax credit claimants in Kent.

It's the little things that buyers notice

DON'T bother washing the car – but whatever you do, make sure the house is de-cluttered.

Many homeowners continue to have misconceptions about what to do to help sell their property, often missing the obvious and instead wasting their time on the unnecessary, according to a new report.

They may be better off listening to the advice of property valuation experts when deciding how to spend their time and money in preparation for opening their doors to potential buyers.

Instead of brewing fresh coffee and baking bread, those valuation experts said that the best single step to increase a property's chance of selling quickly, and for a healthy price, was to de-clutter.

More than half – 55pc – of property valuers said this was the number one on their list of possible jobs to improve house selling chances.

Relevant de-cluttering tasks were tidying the garden, repairing paint

By Ed Foss

MyMoney 24 writer

chips or wallpapering, they said in a survey by leading mortgage provider HSBC.

The research, which questioned householders and property valuation experts, also revealed the smaller jobs around the house which can help homeowners to sell their property.

While more than two thirds of homeowners thought cleaning the windows would be worthwhile, only a third of property experts agreed.

The experts, however, gave a high rating to the relatively minor idea of repainting or varnishing a front door, while homeowners did not generally think it was worthwhile.

Householders should also worry less about putting rubbish bins out of sight or washing the car, and concentrate instead on repairing old fences and gates.

Stuart Beattie, head of mortgages

at HSBC, said: "Our survey shows that many homeowners have spent the recent bank holidays making home improvements.

"While work such as replacing windows or redecorating will make your home more attractive to prospective buyers, it is often the small, last-minute jobs like painting the front door that can make all the difference.

"First impressions really do count."

Other tips for successful sales include:

■ Look at your neighbours' houses. If they look tidier than yours, that first impression has failed.

■ Don't over-improve – the buyer will probably want to put their mark on the house and new carpets for the sake of it don't always work.

■ Replace old-fashioned switches and electrical sockets – not necessarily particularly expensive, but old looking electrical switches and sockets can make an instant negative impression.



INSIDE THIS WEEK

The East Malling Trust has contributed to five new horticultural research fellowships worth a combined total of £1.25 million over the next five years. The pot was put together in a bid to protect UK horticulture research and development from further Government funding cutbacks. A Trust spokesman called on other businesses and organisations in the industry to follow suit.

Simon Robinson Business Editor
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Your business is our business

Osborne vows to tackle jobs and housing during Gills visit

Simon Robinson

simon.robinson@archant.co.uk

CHANCELLOR George Osborne spoke of his commitment to the county during a whistlestop pre-local election push in Kent.

The Tory frontbencher met Gillingham FC's manager Andy Hessenthaler and senior squad at the team's Priestfield Stadium on Tuesday afternoon.

After a brief period out on the hallowed turf, Osborne was quizzed on his plans to encourage job creation across the county, which took a huge hit last month after its firms failed to secure a single penny in the first £450 million round of the Government's Regional Growth Fund (RGF).

Just one of the Kent, Essex and East Sussex Local Enterprise Partnership's 17 applications was successful, and that was from Essex-based e2v Technologies.

But Osborne said the region was key to the country and would benefit from the London 2012 Olympics.

"The South East is an incredibly important region for the country and we are committed to some really big investments here, particularly in transport with the Crossrail development due to connect London with the Thames Gateway area," he said.

"The Olympics will also bring a lot of money to the county. But on top of that we're always looking at what more we can do for local areas, and [Medway MP] Rehman Chishti and Medway Council have been talking about what we can



PLEDGE: The Chancellor said he was committed to creating jobs and across the South East

do for the towns. All parts of the country need assistance in different ways, but the key here is to get transport and housing right in the South East, and making sure the jobs are here. These are our priorities."

Osborne also reassured north Kent businesses that the much-lauded Thames Gateway corridor was very much in the Conservatives' plans.

He said: "We are still very committed to the Thames Gateway region, and the Olympics is

the centrepiece of that project. But even though we've had to sort out the mess we inherited, I think we've been able to do that while keeping the key components of the TG project.

"I was talking to Michael Heseltine about this the other day, as he had the original vision for the project. We both agreed it was one of the most important projects in the whole of the country, and that the Olympics and high-speed rail create an opportunity to take the region into the 21st century."

Last month Kent County Council leader Paul Carter spoke of his disappointment that Kent had been overlooked by the RGF panel but that Government was beginning to recognise that the South East was not entirely prosperous and certain to deliver growth.

"I think the message is slowly getting through, but it was Michael Heseltine and others whose job it was to sift through the Regional Growth Fund applications, and Nick Clegg who made the final decision. So no matter what other ministers want to do, it's the panel that will decide," Cllr Carter said.

"Disappointed would not be the right word because I was not very optimistic bearing in mind the noises from certain people in the Government that the South East would not be a significant recipient of the fund.

"But just because it sees us as having a prosperous economy does not mean we shouldn't have an even more prosperous economy."

Cllr Carter said he was hopeful Kent would fare better when the second round of funding, worth about £1 billion, was announced this summer.

FINANCE

Law firm to lead debt recovery day

A WORKSHOP will take place next month, giving businesses the tools to get tough with their debtors.

The one-day event is being held at the Marriott Tudor Park Hotel, Maidstone, and has been co-organised by law firm Furley Page and the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce.

Furley Page debt recovery and insolvency boss Martin Kingman, based in Chatham, said: "Times have been hard and with companies taking longer to pay, it is crucial that businesses have an appropriate debt recovery procedure agreed and in place.

"Businesses who attend this workshop will be shown that provided they have the right safeguards built into their systems, they can prevent problems with debtors."

The Thursday, June 16 workshop costs £30 to non-Chamber members and is particularly aimed at credit controllers and financial directors.

For more information, call the Chamber on 01233 503838 or book online at www.kentinvictachamber.



REFORM: Tory MP Chris Grayling

WELFARE

Fit to work figures prompt reforms

THREE out of four recent sickness benefit applicants were found to be fit for work, Government figures have revealed.

The statistics showed 887,300 healthy employees attempted to get their hands on taxpayers' cash between 2008 and 2010.

Of those, 39 per cent were deemed 'fit for work' while a further 36 per cent abandoned their claim before their medical assessment was complete – suggesting they knew it would be thrown out. The shock figures were taken from 1,175,000 new Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) applicants during a 22-month period.

Employment Minister Chris Grayling said: "Once again we have clear evidence of the need for change in our welfare system. That's why we are reassessing all of those claimants.

"We will, of course, carry on providing unconditional support to those who cannot work, but for those who can it's right and proper that they start back on the road to employment."

ENTREPRENEURS

School enterprise will help start-ups

SOUTH East entrepreneurs have cited the creation of more school enterprise courses as the most important factor of securing the next generation of successful solo start-ups.

Almost two in five (39 per cent) of the region's entrepreneurs listed such educational enterprise ventures as their top priority, when questioned by Coutts.

The creation of entrepreneurial apprentices and more positive stories around entrepreneurs as role models came in second and third place with 29 and 13 per cent, respectively.

Coutts' South East managing partner Andy Rymer said: "What's important is to get real-life entrepreneurs and business owners together with school pupils and students to help set up apprenticeships and mentoring schemes to grow the sector. StartUp Britain has been building such connections.

"Our own research shows the top personal traits attributed to entrepreneurs' success as business owners are perseverance, passion and ambition."

COMMENT

POLITICAL commentators may question the effectiveness of Chancellor George Osborne's visit to Gillingham FC's Priestfield Stadium this week, being as he spoke with only the vice-chairman, manager, senior players and a handful of local reporters.

And sports commentators may question his timing, what with his Totton constituency's close proximity to Macclesfield FC, who humbled the Gills on their own patch just four days previous.

But away from the worlds of local elections and League Two football clubs, Osborne hinted that Pfizer's site may soon be converted into one of the Government's new Enterprise Zones (EZ).

While refusing to be drawn directly on the issue, the Chancellor said the unwanted research and development site in Sandwich was suitable for an EZ and that he recognised the effects Pfizer's withdrawal would have on the county, including issues such as initial job losses and the migration of skilled workers elsewhere.

It is encouraging that he understands the importance of incentivising businesses to fill the void created by Pfizer.

Time will tell if Osborne's hint proves telling or if the Government has another home in mind for Kent, East Sussex and Essex Local Enterprise Partnership's EZ.

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Osborne hinted that Pfizer's site may soon become an Enterprise Zone



Horticultural research set to blossom thanks to £1.25 million fund

By Simon Robinson

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RESEARCH fellowships worth a total of £1.25 million have been handed out to five leading horticultural academics.

The five-year funding has been made available thanks to a collaboration between the East Malling Trust (EMT), Horticultural Development Company (HDC) and the Horticultural Trades Association (HTA).

EMT chairman said it was vital that the private sector stepped in to support UK horticulture research and development and called on other organisations and businesses to do the same.

"It is feared that public funding cutbacks are undermining research, which is essential for the industry if it is to remain competitive in a global marketplace," he said.

"Furthermore, the UK as a whole needs the industry to ensure a viable future for food production and to provide the social, economic, environmental, health and wellbeing benefits from plants and the landscape.

"These Fellowships are enabling our industry to develop nationally significant work, and to facilitate the employment and mentoring of a new generation of science specialists."

Awards were presented to scientists and academics at East Malling Research (EMR), ADAS, Harper Adams and Stockbridge Technology Centre (STC) on Thursday, April 28.

EMR will use the funding to appoint a trainee researcher in plant pathology and crop protection, while ornamentals expertise will be strengthened at STC.

Two young entomologists will be trained and mentored at ADAS, initially focusing on integrated pest management research. ADAS will also develop



FELLOWSHIPS: Academics and scientists have been awarded £1.25 million funding

horticultural weeds expertise that would otherwise soon disappear.

HDC chairman Neil Bragg said: "The awards are essential to ensure that we support the future development of essential applied scientists and to ensure that the work and experience of the existing scientists is not lost but developed for the future.

"The Fellowships have been made to try to cover essential skills which are threatened at present, such as weeds science, entomology, and ornamentals research. The collaboration between EMT, HDC & HTA is hopefully a model which other groups can follow or add to for the future."

David Gwyther, HTA Director Gener-

al, said: "Outside of limited funds from the HDC the ornamentals sector has virtually no other support for applied research. The industry had to act now to prevent further decline and I am delighted that many of these fellowships will directly benefit the ornamentals industry."

The awarding of the five Fellowships follows an agreement signed between EMT, HDC and HTA at Fruit Focus 2010, held at EMR.

The partners have also agreed to support a number of unsuccessful Fellowship application projects to submit bids for funding from BBSRC, Technology Strategy Board, or HDC cross-panel funding.



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Cutting concern: can Government's Red Tape challenge website help to chop regulations?

THE Government's online regulation-cutting campaign continues to divide opinion across the country.

Prime Minister David Cameron's Red Tape Challenge site calls on business leaders to flag up the rules that are stifling growth, with a view to scrapping thousands of unnecessary regulations.

Some Kent businesses have questioned the Government's ability to cut EU-imposed red tape, while others have welcomed the initiative.

The Marketing Eye's managing director Neil Edwards said: "The Red Tape Challenge is popularity politics of the worst order and reeks of civil servants advising ministers on how to win the hearts of business owners, without the first idea of what it's like to run a small business.

"If they think business owners come into work every day worrying about one regulation or another, they are on another planet. It is liquidity; access to finance; the cost of employing people

and where the next order is coming from that keeps us awake, not which returns to complete.

"The taxpayer is now the proud owner of a shiny new website that allows us 'to tell [Government] which regulations are working and which are not; what should be scrapped, what should be saved and what should be simplified'.

"Then, further on, 'once you've had your say, ministers will have three months to work out which regulations they want to

keep and why'. Democracy, hey, you couldn't make it up."

But CooperBurnett Partner Victoria Sampson was in favour of the online drive, saying: "I welcome the website and, in particular, the burden on ministers to be required to make a very good case for onerous regulations to stay.

"I also welcome the Government's engagement with the public as it is they who are at the actual coal face dealing with over-regulation each day."

High-spec medical manufacturer looks forward a to healthy future

ITL's chief executive Tom Cole has his sights set on the Germans.

The qualified electronics engineer said the high-spec medical diagnostic instrumentation design and manufacturing company wanted to move into new markets, including Germany, where their nearest European rivals operate.

The bold move is part of ITL's plans to build upon their title of the UK's number one firm in the field, and will also see them move into India as well as further develop its Chinese arm, used for high volume production as well as distribution and warehousing.

Mr Cole and his marketing director, Dr Greg Smith, will be leading a delegation to India to find distributors for their own products in this growing market place. Building a UK-India relationship is among their top priorities.

Cole said the company, which offers an unrivalled one-stop shop approach to the design and manufacture of some of the latest cutting edge medical equipment, was perfectly placed to expand.

He said: "There are businesses that design products and there are those that manufacture them. What we can do is take a product through from its initial conception through to manufacturing. It's definitely one of our unique selling points because our customers can come in with just a drawing on the back of a cigarette packet and we will take it through the design, prototyping, manufacturing and commercialisation processes.

"In the UK we're number one because we're the only company that does what we do. Within 12 months of that idea coming to us the client will be able to take a world class product to market. We guarantee that."

The company, based in Ellingham Way, Ashford, was established 35 years ago and has grown into a streamlined machine.

The 75 on-site staff are split between research and design and manufacturing departments.

Currently the company is working on 10 new products at the R&D stage while producing a further 20 on the shop floor.

Inside the firm's long, narrow boardroom Cole fanned out a number of promotional pamphlets for a range of high-tech medical products his company has built or designed, or both, in recent years.

He also pointed to a stylish piece of machinery

The BIG Interview

Integrated Technologies Limited is the name behind the biggest brands in medical diagnostic instrumentation. Chief executive Tom Cole told Business Week editor **Simon Robinson** how the established Ashford firm is called upon to bring cutting-edge products to market, at times taking them from initial concept right through to mass manufacture and distribution



sitting on a desk at the end of the room. His team had been asked to re-work the product, which had been 'completed' by a Singapore rival – and was as big as a dining room table when they got their hands on it.

A major overhaul later and the sleek unit was a third of its former size.

Cole said his company's first class reputation and associated successes – such as those in front of me – were largely thanks to his highly-skilled staff.

"It's a team effort," he said. "No one person in this organisation can work in isolation. The team must work together. The reason that works so well is that most people here have worked together for so long. Most of our engineers have been with the company for 20 to 25 years and I think that's because we give them such a wide range of life-saving products to work on."

"We didn't realise how good our engineers were until we compared them with others around the world. It's only when you put them up against engineers in China and the US that you see we're in a different league entirely."

"I think the reason we're such a cut above is that our engineers are very commercially minded and very practical: they get the job done in nine to 12 months. And we pride ourselves on never having any product returns – that's why we get repeat customers."

Cole said the company's customer attention to aftercare was also part of their success in retaining clients.

He said: "We always keep in contact with the customer once we've designed and manufactured their product because we want to know how sales are going and what the feedback from users has been so we can make any necessary improvements."

"It's a continuous process, we don't just make an item and then forget about it. We want to enhance it so that the customer keeps coming back to us."

Another factor in ITL's rise to the top of the UK market is its security in diversity.

Cole explained: "Last year there were tough times for the manufacturing industry because of the recession. Our customer had too much stock on finished instruments and were unable to move them on as the market had slowed down."

"But rather than standing still, they switched their focus to innovation and the next generation of products."

"So rather than spending money with us on manufacturing they spent money with us on R&D. We're predicting growth of about 20 per cent in the next year and hope to take turnover up from £8 million to £10 million."

Finances aside, it is clear that Cole places equal value on the positive role the products they work on are having across the globe.

"It's a fantastic industry to be involved in," he said.

"Everyone likes to help save lives. If you think you're contributing to putting world class products into the market that are going to be able to help people, such as a machine that helps diagnose breast cancer earlier, that brings us a lot of joy."

ITL are going to come up with innovations in new products, services and ways of doing business that will help get the economy going again.



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IT'S A TEAM EFFORT: The 75-strong ITL workforce outside their Ashford office in Ellingham Way

Business Week

For more business news go to **businessforkent.co.uk**

TAX

New framework for filing fines

SOLE traders and partners are set to face new penalties for filing their tax returns late.

The new system, introduced by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, will see an initial £100 fixed penalty issued to those who are even one day late in filling out the necessary paperwork, while those who are three months late will face additional fine of £10 per day, until the return is filed, for a maximum of 90 days.

Reeves senior tax manager Nigel Moon said: "For tax returns up to 2009/10 the rules effectively capped a late filing penalty at the amount of tax unpaid at January 31, and we have used this rule on our clients' behalf to good effect where returns have been unavoidably delayed.

"However, we will find this route blocked in the future as a new penalties regime will now apply to any late tax return for 2010/11 onwards.

"Under the new system taxpayers who have not filed within six months of the filing date will face a minimum penalty of £1,300 increasing to £1,600 if they are 12 months late.

"In addition, there may be tax geared penalties for late submission - and further tax geared penalties if tax is paid late."

IMPORTS

Entrance point to England

KENT'S business connections with the Continent are set to be boosted by a new multi-million-pound development.

The planned Calais Premier park will be built across 160 hectares in the industrial zone of Turquerie, which stretches along the Calais-Dunkirk railway line and is situated between Calais Port and the Channel Tunnel.

The first phase of the project will see logistics warehouses, industrial parks and commercial properties built on 50 hectares.

Calais business bosses will also invest £1.8 million in a new railway junction at the site and upgrades on the whole Calais-Dunkirk line.

The £350 million Calais 2015 Port Project will extend the port to twice its size.

The myriad of developments has been coordinated to provide a direct entrance point to England from Europe.

Accordingly, contact has been made with potential UK clients, including suppliers in the automobile industry and mass-market suppliers.

The mayor of Calais, Natacha Bouchart, said: "With this project, Calais will assert its strategic position as a European crossroads, create thousands of jobs and bring in million of pounds of investment."

Investees' attitude goes from 'when' to 'how' as perceptions change

Simon Robinson

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THE county's private-equity outlook remains positive despite public sector spending cuts, according to the Matrix Group.

Jonathan Gregory, Partner at Matrix Private Equity Partners (MPEP) said the market would favour "businesses of the highest quality" in the next six months.

He said: "We have experienced a notable increase in investment driven by a change in the mindset of owners who have moved from thinking about 'when' to 'how' they can realise the value of their business.

"Perceptions of business owners in Kent have changed due to the benefits of the benign capital taxes regime in comparison to the issues associated with the income tax system. Also there is a realisation that valuation prices are unlikely to increase significantly in the short or even medium term.

"Kent is well positioned to weather the consequences of public sector spending cuts, benefiting from low interest rates and the weaker pound. We are seeing that our investee companies based in the county are reflecting this through exceptionally strong performance.

"However even in Kent only those businesses of the highest quality will be able to command premium prices and the weaker players will struggle to attract investment or bank debt."



POSITIVE: Private equity expert Jonathan Gregory said Kent's leading firms would blossom in the current market while "weaker" players would find it difficult to attract investment but the outlook of the private equity market was good

Matrix has been very active on the investment trail, having completed three deals in the last two months alone - the £8.5 million management buyout (MBO) of printing business Automated Systems Group Ltd, the £9 million MBO of European recruitment provider RDL Corporation and the £4.5 million MBO of Kent based publishing business Faversham House.

The firm is now looking for strong players operating in niche businesses that have significant opportunities for growth.

But deals have been hindered by a lack of cash flow finance.

Gregory said: "The availability of bank debt is mixed. For the larger transactions (north of £10 million), there does seem to be more appetite this year, however in the sub £10 million bracket the situation is much more varied particularly in relation to cash flow lending.

"In order to address the lack of cash flow finance for smaller businesses we provide the debt ourselves, as part of an overall funding package that gives greater deliverability and certainty to the vendor.

"There is much more flexibility from vendors with regards to how their consideration is paid; an increase in vendor loans being used in order that the seller can benefit from better interest rates than offered on bank deposits and a rise in vendors taking small equity stakes in order to benefit from future potential valuation uplifts.

"The exit environment is looking promising and there is growing interest from overseas buyers who perceive that UK businesses are looking relatively cheap. There is strong competition for new deals as private equity investors have significant levels of funds to deploy.

"We expect our portfolio companies to benefit from particularly strong demand in the mid-market, from private equity houses that have very high levels of liquidity and need to invest their funds in the next few years."

'Backbone of the business' is in line for luxury Prague getaway

TOP PA Sharon Walsh is in the running for a five-night city break after reaching the final in a national assistant competition.

Sharon, from Eynsford, near Dartford, is one of just six PAs in line for the top prize - a holiday in Prague.

The executive assistant to the HR director at Channel 4 said she was delighted to reach the finals in the PA of the Year Award.

"I am thrilled to have been named as one of the UK's top PAs," she said. "People often don't realise the impact PAs can have on an organisation.

"I have been an assistant for many years now and it's absolutely great to have my hard work and input recognised."

The award has been sponsored by Hays Recruitment and The Times.

Hays PA and Secretarial managing director Geoff Sims said: "PAs like

Sharon make a huge contribution to organisations and there is often not enough acknowledgement for people in these important support roles who keep the wheels of business turning and are the backbone of their business."

The winner will be announced by Ultimo founder Michelle Mone on Thursday, May 19. "These six finalists all share a proactive and adaptable spirit I can easily relate to. As someone who has built up her own business, I know how vital it is to have a strong team around you," said Ms Mone.

"People often do not appreciate just how demanding the role of PA is, and how significant their contribution to an organisation is, so it's great that six of the nation's best have been sought out.

"I wish the best of luck to all the talented final six ahead of the award announcement."



FINALIST: Sharon Walsh

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Beat the burglars when you lock your front door

By Simon Robinson

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AGEAS Insurance's latest research has provided an insight into why domestic burglaries are on the rise.

Figures collated by the insurance giant revealed that just under one in two adults (47 per cent) do not lock their front door as a rule when they are at home.

More than one in ten (13 per cent) only ever lock their front door at bedtime.

Ageas also found that homes across the UK display on average £1,223 of valuables such as TV's, other electronic goods, antiques and works of art that are clearly visible for would-be burglars to see through home windows.

Nearly one in five residents (18 per cent) said that as much as £2,000 or more worth of valuables could be seen by a passer-by looking through a window and one in three (35 per cent) said that valuables worth more than £1,000 could be seen.

Ageas Insurance managing director Mark Cliff said: "It is often wrongly assumed that many household burglaries are committed while homes are empty. Canny burglars know that many people assume that by being at home, they themselves are a deterrent and so they take fewer precautions.

"But an unlocked front door or window can be an open invitation to a burglar while the occupier is distracted by spend-



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If you can gain entry, a burglar will be inside a lot faster than you

ROY RUDHAM

BREAKING IN: The fact that you're inside your home will not deter a burglar from making the most of an opportunity to steal

ing time in the garden.

"With so few people routinely securing their home while they are there it's no wonder that so many thefts are committed without a forced entry.

"It is not about turning your home into a fortress but simply getting into the habit of locking doors and windows, regardless of the period of time the house or room is unattended."

Roy Rudham, Chairman

of UK Neighbourhood Watch Trust, which gets 15,000 visits to its website each day added: "People should treat their homes like they treat their cars – do not leave valuables on show, lock the doors and make sure you are insured.

"If you were to lock your home how easy would it be for you to get in? If you can easily gain entry, a burglar will be inside a lot faster than you."

PM: There's no sense in Europe's single sex insurance premiums

PRIME Minister David Cameron has accused the European Court of Justice of lacking "common sense" after it ruled that car insurers cannot charge men and women different premiums based on gender.

Mr Cameron hit out at the controversial ruling, made last month, arguing that premiums should be based on risk.

He also derided the supporters of the move as the "loony left".

But the ECJ said the existing ruling was unfair



ACCUSED: David Cameron

and needed to be turned on its head.

A statement read: "Taking the gender of the insured individual into account as a risk factor in insurance contracts constitutes discrimination."

The ECJ's decision means insurers can no longer charge lower car insurance to women than men.

The cost of buying a pensions annuity is also set to change.

The PM said he was less than impressed with the ECJ's decision.

"I have to say it [the ruling] shows that some of the loony left is still alive and well in our country because frankly insurance premiums ought to reflect risk," he said.

And in addressing Tory Jonathan Evans, MP for Cardiff North, who raised the issue in Parliament, Mr Cameron added: "You, as ever, are displaying common sense whereas the European Court did not."

Unisex insurance premiums are to come into force in December next year.

RECESSION

Slowdown comes out as top concern

THE economic slowdown has been listed as the greatest threat to global business leaders, Aon has found.

The insurance broker found that the continuing fallout from the recession was their number one concern.

Of the 1,000 business leaders surveyed across 58 countries 67 per cent said that had suffered a loss of income associated with this risk.

Failure to innovate/meet customer needs, technology failure and an inability to attract/retain top talent were among the top 10 concerns.

Rory Moloney, head of risk consulting in Europe, said: "In the UK and Ireland, businesses are acutely aware of the uncertainty surrounding the financial stability of European nations, which is most likely the reason we see political risks and exchange rate fluctuations in their top 10 concerns.

"This survey was conducted prior to the upheaval in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as the New Zealand and Japan earthquakes, so it is possible these concerns would be even higher on the list today."

George Zsolnay, head of Aon Analytics in the US, said: "The findings shared in our report underscore the undeniable interdependence among various risks as well as economies around the globe. It is more important than ever for organisations to embrace an enterprise-wide approach to managing risk, and optimise their strategy on a global basis."



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Skills festival is first of its kind for careers guidance

STUDENTS from Romney Marsh, Ashford and Shepway are discovering the wealth of career opportunities available to them at the first Romney Marsh Skills Festival.

The two-day event, which ends on Saturday (May 7) at the Marsh Academy, focuses on the rural economy, energy and engineering, construction, IT and telecoms, fashion, and marine and maritime industries.

More than 600 students have been taking part in a wide range of hands-on activities and masterclasses, including masonry, timber-framing and even robot programming.

Marsh Academy chairman of governors Robert Alston said: "It is especially important that parents and children have an awareness of the range and kinds of careers potentially open to them, and of the educational paths involved when selecting their options.

"The Marsh Academy is very excited to host the Romney Marsh Skills Festival – the first of its kind in Kent – which will help not only our students but young people from across the area to make the best choices for their futures.

"We hope it will be the first of many."

The event, which was officially launched at the House of Lords earlier this year, has been organised by Kent County Council in partnership with the Marsh Academy and the City of London Livery Companies, with support from Hadlow College.

Those in attendance were also offered advice on apprenticeships and self-employment.

Date set for next apprentice week

THE next National Apprenticeship Week will take place from Monday, February 6, to Friday, February 10 next year.

More than 500 events were held across the UK for the last event, the aim of which was to engage employers with apprenticeship programmes by highlighting the advantages of taking on and supporting apprentices in the workplace.

Visit www.apprenticeships.co.uk.

Green scheme ahead for former museum?



What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email steve.knight@archant.co.uk or give him a call on 01303 817136.

HISTORIC: Ramsgate's East Cliff Hall could be turned into a hothouse for the eco-friendly employers of Thanet's future

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A FORMER motor museum in Ramsgate could be about to start a new life as a hothouse for eco-friendly entrepreneurs.

The West Cliff Hall has remained empty since the classic cars it once housed were all removed in 2004, but a group of local businessmen and women now hope to re-open the historic venue to aid in Thanet's economic recovery.

They plan to use the hall to help young entrepreneurs develop the skills, confidence and contacts to become the isle's employers of the future, and to seize opportunities presented by the low-carbon economy in east Kent.

If the proposals get the go-ahead, they will also be involved in the running of a low-carbon venue that includes offices, a theatre, restaurant, gallery, shop and independent cinema.

The project is being sponsored by the Low Carbon Community Ramsgate (LCCR) charity, the community champion of which is Austral-

ia-born Ramsgate resident Janet Fielding, who starred alongside both Tom Baker and Peter Davison in the TV series Doctor Who between 1981 and 1984.

She said: "Entrepreneurs start young. This is an excellent opportunity to help local kids with a flair for business.

"Latest figures show that not only is Thanet's unemployment the highest in Kent, Thanet wages are £83 less than they are in Canterbury and £159 less than they are in Dover districts.

"We don't just need more employment here. We need better employment and we can't rely solely on outsiders to bring it to us. We have to find ways of doing that for ourselves."

A venue for wartime dances in the 1940s, the West Cliff Hall is also fondly remembered for hosting school speech nights and even an early Rolling Stones concert in 1964.

Unoccupied and damaged by water for more than six years, LCCR estimates that it requires £5.5 million for substantial repairs before it can be brought back to life. They say leaving it to

continue to deteriorate is not an option as the roof of the hall holds up the first 40 metres of Ramsgate's West Cliff Promenade.

Members of Thanet council's ruling Conservative cabinet discussed the plans at a meeting last Thursday (April 28) when they were asked to approve a recommendation to give the charity an option on the building.

However, the councillors have asked for more financial information before making a decision.

LCCR chairman John East – also a City financier and talented jazz musician – said: "We have a real chance to make a real dent in Thanet's unemployment figures and save Ramsgate's West Cliff Hall and Gardens.

"Our next challenge is to raise the funds to make this a reality."

Other members of the LCCR board include corporate lawyer Clare Grayston (secretary), financial expert and East Cliff Residents' Association member Chris Welch (treasurer), retired architect Russell White and senior NHS managers Jane Hetherington and Sonja Bigg.

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Learn how to surf, send and shop with free computer courses on Isle

FREE IT courses are being run for people who want to learn or improve their computer skills.

The sessions are being run by the Online Basics team and organised by the Isle of Sheppey-based charity the Island Partnership as part of its Employment Swale scheme.

The course will include information on how to use a mouse and keyboard, how to send an email, how to search for information on the internet, how to stay safe while online and

more. A spokesman said: "Online Basics is a great way for you to get started online, helping you gain the skills and confidence you need to start using computers and the internet."

"The course is for anyone. You don't have to know anything about computers or have any experience. However, if you do it will help you practice your skills."

"Whether you're looking to develop computer and internet skills for a new job or simply

save time, money and hassle by using the internet to order your weekly shopping or pay your bills, Online Basics can help you get started."

The Island Partnership was founded in 1988 with the aim of tackling unemployment and improving the level of skills on the Isle of Sheppey.

For more information or to book an appointment with an advisor, call 01795 59670 or visit the Old Library in Trinity Road, Sheerness.

Tiffany Pisani shows she's a model pupil

SCHOOLCHILDREN from across the county have designed outfits for Britain's Next Top Model.

Tiffany Pisani, who was crowned winner of the popular Sky Living television show in October, modelled the garments which had been designed, crafted, styled and marketed during a five-day course run by the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) in Rochester.

Inga Patching, widening participation co-ordinator at UCA, said: "The aim of the project is to find new talent in the local area, while also raising aspirations of young people that might not have thought they could pursue a career in fashion."

"Everyone has said how much they have loved the course, including Britain's Next Top Model, Tiffany Pisani, who told me she wished she could have done a project like this when she was younger."

The outreach project, which took place between Friday, April 15, and Thursday, April 21, gave 31 fashion wannabes the opportunity to experience university-style lessons with some of UCA's lecturers, technicians and current students.

Mrs Patching added: "They learn practical and theoretical skills that are vital for the world of fashion, such as sketching, pattern-cutting, sewing and promotion, plus their hard work is captured in a portfolio which they can show future employers and add to their CV."

Katie Jarvis, 17, from Thomas Aveling School,



BEAUTY: Tiffany Pisani with two of her designers

Rochester, said: "I've done some fashion work at school but I've learned so much more during this project – it's a great opportunity to find out what university is like and see if it is for you."

Paige Harrison, 17, who attends Folkestone Academy, added: "I didn't know if I wanted to do fashion design or fashion journalism, but the course has made me realise that my passion is actually in designing clothes – and when Britain's Next Top Model says she'd like to wear your dress for an event, you know you're doing something right."

'Visual merchandising' students boosted by Royal Wedding designs

VISUAL merchandising students from North West Kent College have been putting their skills to good use to help small businesses in Sevenoaks.

Caroline Russell, Janette Susans, Karen Chappell and Rachel Taylor have recently passed their exams in the subject and installed four window displays for Sashani the jewellers.

Its owner Philip Chown had met Janette, 21, at a business masterclass and invited her to

design the sweets-themed designs for his shop.

Janette said: "I loved being able to work on a real shop window and put the theory I have learned at Bluewater's Learning Shop into practice."

Fellow shopkeeper and wedding dress designer Bea Das was so impressed by the Sashani display that she approached the students' tutor Laura Lewis about doing one for her shop based on the Royal Wedding of Prince William and Kate

Middleton – now known as the Duchess of Cambridge.

The display has been designed around the theme of a vintage tea party and celebrates the Britishness of the Royal Family.

Ms Lewis said: "Despite the short notice it was too exciting an opportunity to turn down."

"Who knows when the next royal wedding of this scale might be?"

Visit www.nwkcollege.ac.uk for more information.

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Public Notices

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CONTRACTS MANAGER

c £40,000 Bonus, BUPA, Car

GML Construction are looking for the following staff to be part of this dynamic and award winning Construction and solar PV company.

A need has arisen for highly motivated and experienced individuals to provide contract management support within GML and The Green Home Company.

The successful candidates will have excellent team management skills; able to work on their own initiative; problem solving abilities and able to work to tight deadlines within strict financial constraints. Construction experience is essential.

Applicants should send their CV to:
sue.palmer@gmlconstruction.co.uk
GML Construction, Orchard House,
Westerhill Road, Coxheath, Kent ME17 4DH
www.gmlconstruction.co.uk
www.thegreenhomecompany.com

Application closing date: 13th May
GML Construction and is an Equal Opportunities employer



Centronic is a specialist technology business that has a market-leading position in the design and manufacture of sensors and detectors for customers around the world.

PROCESS ENGINEER

To provide technical support to our Silicon Detector department. The applicant will be responsible for the creation of specifications, supporting production, problem solving and improving processes. Ideally a minimum of 5 years experience in a Process Engineering environment with HNC minimum or equivalent is required, with good written and verbal communication skills. The role will entail direct contact with customers to understand their requirements and to problem solve technical queries.

PROJECT MANAGER

Is required to manage Centronic's project planning, to act as the customer's primary point of contact. The applicant will be responsible for monitoring quality/technical/schedule/cost performance, for preparing and distributing routine progress reports to senior management and customer. Excellent written and verbal communication skills. Computer literate in MS Office applications, with experience of using Microsoft Project or other suitable program as a project-planning tool.

SENIOR WAREHOUSE OPERATIVE

Is required to manage stores and despatch areas. The applicant will have responsibility for the Stores team, management of stores locations, ensuring stock integrity with regular stock checks. Timely movement of parts to support the business performance. Data entry covering Kitting/Picking/Issuing of works orders. P.I. checks and responsibility for Gas & Chemicals.

SALES ADMINISTRATOR

The Sales Administrator will be involved in the day to day running of the Sales Office and responsible for assisting and supporting the Sales Team with the preparation and distribution of sales documentation, covering Internal/External sales activities. The ideal applicant will be self motivated able to work on own initiative with extensive administration abilities. Fully IT literate, excellent written and verbal communication skills with attention to detail. Team player.

Please submit your CV to:
Gina Bromley, Centronic Ltd.
267 King Henry's Drive, Croydon, CR9 0BG

Care Home (Nursing)

in Faversham seeks;

Senior Nurse - 30-36 hours pw
Excellent rate of pay available

Experienced Nurse - days or nights
Either full or part time £13.25-£14.25 ph
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Short term contract. 3 months approximately. Flat Pack shed deliveries for MJD Sheds.

Call 01322 370700 and speak to Adrian

NIGHT SENIOR

AT

RIVERLEA HOUSE

NVQ2 preferred.

Please contact Mandie Johnstone on 01304 823935



The Green Home Company specialises in renewable energy technology for UK homes. TGHC is looking for the following staff to be part of this growing Kent company

TECHNICAL SURVEYOR

- c. £25,000, Bonus, BUPA, Van

An opportunity has arisen for an experienced Technical Surveyor to join our expanding team.

The successful candidate may have experience of PV solar surveying and the ability to create detailed site drawings ensuring that designs meet user requirements. In addition, the ability to liaise with installation teams for effective system delivery is essential. You will be customer facing and an important team member.

Successful applicants will be contacted by the 13th May 2011.

Applicants should send their CV to:
sue.palmer@gmlconstruction.co.uk
The Green Home Company, Orchard House,
Westerhill Road, Coxheath, Kent ME17 4DH
www.thegreenhomecompany.com

TGHC is a subsidiary of GML Construction and is an Equal Opportunities employer



LEADING SOLAR INSTALLATION COMPANY SEEKS

Solar PV Installers
£24000 + bonus + benefits

One of the UK's leading solar installation companies is looking for experienced installers to carry out solar PV installations in the South East.

As well as installation expertise, carpentry/roofing /electrical experience would also be a distinct advantage.

Please forward a CV by 21st April to
sue.palmer@gmlconstruction.co.uk

The Green Home Company
Orchard House, Westerhill Road, Coxheath, Kent, ME17 4DH
01622 742708

www.thegreenhomecompany.com
TGHC is a subsidiary of GML Construction and is an Equal Opportunities Employer

•Café Manager•••

Required for the New Community Centre
@ Queens Road Baptist Church, Broadstairs
25 hours per week - £12,500 per annum

Main Duties: - to manage all aspects of operating the Café, including the supervision of a team of voluntary and paid staff. We are looking for a highly motivated and friendly person that has previous experience of leading a team of workers. The Café Manager will have a professional catering qualification and should have empathy for the ethos of the Gap Community Project. The Café Manager should also have at least 2 years working experience in a catering environment.

Please submit a CV and a covering letter to
The Gap Project, Broadstairs Youth @ Leisure Centre,
Albion Street Car Park, Broadstairs, Kent. CT10 1NE
For a job description or for more information please ring Gill or Di on
01843 861055 email: gillcorker@gapcharity.fset.co.uk

Closing date is Friday 20th May

AutoCAD Technician/ Steel Detailer

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**Premier Flooring Design, Vale Rise,
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Northfleet School for Girls

Innovations & ICT Technician

37 hours per week/term time only
Kent Scheme 7/8 - Starting salary £17,200 p.a.

Probably a Graduate with good Apple Mac/Media skills, we are looking for you to work as part of a team to promote innovative use of all aspects of ICT including web site management and multi-media in the curriculum and throughout the school. You will provide hands on support in the classroom with staff and students both in and out of school hours. You will also provide ICT Technician support across the school, leading a team of Domain Assistants to deliver efficient day-to-day ICT services.

Learning Resource Co-Ordinator

37.00 hours per week/term time only
Kent Scheme Grade 5 £14170 p.a.

To support both the School Library and the wider aspects of an IT literate school information and innovation skills are key to this role. The development of our new state of the art Learning Resources Centre impacts on every area of the school with extended and out of hours learning opportunities through both printed and electronic media. Applicants will be educated to at least A Level with good numeracy and literacy abilities.

Learning Resource Assistant

37.00 hours per week/term time only
Kent Scheme Grade 4 £13,476 p.a.

Working alongside the Learning Resource Co-Ordinator this is an ideal opportunity to gain experience of the wide aspects of an IT literate school in supporting learning and innovation through the development of all aspects of the Learning Resources Centre - both printed and electronic media - and throughout the school. This postholder will also provide basic ICT support to our Creative & Media Domain.

Full job descriptions and application form available on our website at www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk. Application by fully completed application form with supporting letter to Mrs S Chisholm at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ - email: personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk. Tel: 01474 831020

Applicants will be subject to a full CRB check.
Closing Date for applications 14 May 2011



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Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic? Can you work using your own initiative, as well as being part of a team?

Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Primary and Nursery) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with severe learning difficulties. The post holder will be based primarily at one of the school's sites, reporting to the Site Manager and Headteacher.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):

Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP
(01634 338236)

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

Closing date: 13.5.2011

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Due to the retirement of the current post holder, we are seeking an individual experienced in working in an art and/or technology environment using various tools and machinery. Experience of working with metal, wood, plastic and other materials is required. Good team working skills, the ability to interact positively with children and excellent resources management skills are essential.

Saint George's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Please contact the school to request further details and an application form (Email thomsonm@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk) or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk
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PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

- 11/01167/LBC** The Old Livery Stables The Green, Benenden
- Listed Building Consent: Satellite dish (LB)
- 11/01074/HOUSE** Claremont 3 Willesey Gardens, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- New detached garage and alterations to existing garage roof and frontage (LB)(CA)
- 11/01155/HOUSE** 4 Earls Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden
- Extension of Time: Two-storey rear extension and first floor side extension over existing flat roof with two dormer windows to rear elevation (08/01000 refers) (CA)
- 11/01131/FUL** Etchinghill Farmyard Gore Lane, Goudhurst
- Demolition of existing buildings and erection of new dwelling for Mr & Mrs S Taurins (DEVPLN)
- 11/01175/FULMJ** Orchard Place Farm Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood
- Change of use from agriculture and formation of one additional lake with associated access and car parking area to extend the fishing enterprise (PROV)(MAJOR)
- 11/01004/HOUSE** 3 Howard Lodge 16 Mount Sion, Pantiles & St Marks
- Replace existing critical metal window with new glazed timber doors to kitchen, replace existing critical window with new double glazed timber sash window and block up existing door to dining room. New rooflight to stair, ensuite bathroom to master bedroom and replacement stairs (LB)(CA)
- 11/01008/LBC** 3 Howard Lodge 16 Mount Sion, Pantiles & St Marks
- Listed Building Consent - Replace existing critical metal window with new glazed timber doors to kitchen, replace existing critical window with new double glazed timber sash window and block up existing door to dining room. New rooflight to stair, ensuite bathroom to master bedroom and replacement stairs (LB)
- 11/01096/LBC** York House 71 - 73 High Street, Pantiles & St Marks
- Listed Building Consent: Works to bungalow to the rear - Remove timber beam and brick up openings beneath; repair cracking to brickwork and repoint as necessary; renew roof guttering and down pipes; repair or replace existing windows; change access to Frog Lane with new gate located other side of bungalow further up Frog Lane; replace rotten ends of roof truss timbers and rafters and demolition of outbuilding (LB)
- 11/01169/FUL** 12 - 14 High Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Retrospective - Change of use of ground floor to A1/A3 (LB)(CA)
- 11/01022/FUL** 122 - 126 Henwood Green Road Pembury, Pembury
- Installation of electrical roller shutter (pin hole type) (LB)
- 11/01121/HOUSE** Pineys Modest Corner, Southborough North
- Garage conversion to habitable room. Raising of roof at front, conservatory extension at rear and infill of balcony at first floor (CA)
- (DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROV) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement. You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.
- You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.
- Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
Dated: 7 May 2011



PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

Licensing Act 2003

Notice of Application for Grant of a Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that Paul Hamilton Bowman and Irina Bowman have applied to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council for the grant of a Premises Licence in respect of premises known as Café Troika, 49 High Street, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8BT. The application seeks the licence in respect of the following:

The sale of alcohol for consumption on and off the premises.

The provision of regulated entertainment.

The provision of late night refreshment for consumption on and off the premises, all between the hours of 08.00 and 23.30 Monday to Sunday and 08.00 to 00.30 on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve.

Details of the register of record of the application can be viewed at the Tonbridge & Malling Council Offices (Licensing Dept), Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling during normal office hours. Any representations from interested parties or responsible authorities must be made in writing to the Council by the 26th day of May 2011.

It is an offence, knowingly or recklessly, to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction is a fine not exceeding £5000.

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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

WRENS NEST LANE, HIGH HALDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new electrical supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Wrens Nest Lane, High Halden, on or after 9 May 2011 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Shawlands Lane and Hookstead.

The alternative route is via Shawlands Lane, Thurstons Lane and Wrens Nest Lane.

BRUNSWICK ROAD, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching and repairs to areas of potholes and surface failure, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Brunswick Road, Ashford, on or after 23 May 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with the A28 for a distance of approximately 15 metres.

The alternative route is via Brunswick Road, Hilton Road and A28 Chart Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

ROSS GARDENS, ROUGH COMMON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of ducting works in the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ross Gardens, Rough Common, Canterbury, on or after 11 May 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside numbers 37-42.

The alternative route is via Rough Common Road and the other junction of Ross Gardens.

SCHOOL LANE, HERNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable scaffolding to be in place for building maintenance and to allow safe movement for pedestrians where the road is narrow, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on School Lane, Herne, on or after 9 May 2011 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the Smugglers Inn.

There will be no access for through traffic between A291 Herne Street and the rest of School Lane.

The alternative route is via A291 Herne Street, Canterbury Road, Mill View Road and Mill Lane.

BREDLANDS LANE, STURRY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of a new waste water inspection chamber, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bredlands Lane, Sturry, from 28 May 2011 until 6 June 2011 or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Spires Academy.

The alternative route is via A28 Island Road, Staines Hill, Babs Oak Hill and Hoath Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (A257 CANTERBURY, LITTLEBOURNE, ICKHAM AND WELL AND WINGHAM) (50 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2011

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (A257 CANTERBURY ROAD, WINGHAM) (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Orders under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the first named Order will be to introduce a 50 mph speed limit in the A257 at the

following locations:

From the existing 40mph limit into Canterbury at a point 80m east of the junction between the A257 and Stodmarsh Road to the 30mph entry into Littlebourne at the top of The Hill, Littlebourne.

From the existing 30mph limit into Littlebourne from the east at Wingham Road, Littlebourne to a point 45m east of the entrance to Fairview Nursery, Canterbury Road, Wingham.

The effect of the second named Order will be to introduce a 30 mph speed limit in the A257 between the existing 30mph speed limit gateway and a point 45m east of the entrance to Fairview Nursery.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined on Monday to Friday at Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to:

The Transportation and Development Manager, East Kent Area, Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD.

Or by email to td.eastkent@kent.gov.uk by 12 noon on Tuesday 31st May 2011

BOLTS HILL, CHARTHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new waste water connection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bolts Hill, Chartham, on or after 23 May 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of The Old Ford Yard.

The alternative route is via Bolts Hill, Shalmsford Street, Baker's Lane, Rattington Street, Station Road and Parish Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL UNIVERSITY WAY, DARTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is being held on the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by Dartford Toll bound vehicular traffic on University Way, Dartford from the roundabout at Thames Road to the A282 roundabout.

The Order will become effective on 23rd May 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the event is planned to take place 29th May 2011 and 26th June 2011 and last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Burnham Road, Victoria Road, Hythe Street, Highfield Road, East Hill, Park Road and Princes Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the Bridge Triathlon.

For further information please contact Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

SOLTAN LANE (WHITE HILL), LANGDON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable railway infrastructure works to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Solton Lane (White Hill), Langdon, on or after 14 May 2011 for up to 3 Saturday nights over 6 weeks.

Overnight closures are planned for Saturday 14 May 2011 Saturday 4 June 2011

There may be a further closure on Saturday 25 June 2011 if it has not been possible to complete all the works on the 2 earlier dates.

The planned closure times are between 9.00 pm through to 9.00 am.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via Solton Lane, A258 Deal Road, Hangman's Lane, The Street, East Langdon Road and White Hill.

VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Dover, on or after 10 May 2011 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

GORE LANE, EASTRY – between Mill Lane and Gore Road From 10 May 2011 for 4 days
Alternative route via Mill Lane, High Street, Woodnesborough Lane, Gore Road

PINEHAM ROAD, GUSTON – between The Street, Guston and Abbey Road, Whitfield
From 16 May 2011 for 3 days
Alternative route via East Langdon Road, Watersheer Lane, Abbey Road

GUSTON ROAD, EAST LANGDON – between Solton Lane and Watersheer Road
From 19 May 2011 for 2 days
Alternative route via Church Lane, East Langdon Road and Waldershare Lane

MILL LANE, WORTH - between A258 Deal Road and Hay Lane
From 23 May 2011 for 2 days
Alternative route via A258 Deal Road, Burgess Green, Broad Lane, The Street, Finglesham Road, Back Road, Hay Lane

HAY LANE, EASTRY – between Back Road and Hay Hill
From 25 May 2011 for 3 days
Alternative route via Back Road, Updown Lane, Hay Hill

These works are weather dependent, and the timing may be affected by adverse conditions.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (EXPERIMENTAL PROHIBITION OF RIGHT TURN) (RUSSELL STREET, DOVER) (TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under Section 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order introduces experimentally no right turns from Russell Street, Dover onto the Azo Townwall Street Dover.

1. No person causing any vehicle proceeding in Russell Street shall cause that vehicle to turn right into Azo Townwall Street, Dover with the exception of:
2. Nothing in Article 1 of this Order shall prevent any person from causing or permitting a vehicle to turn right if it is:-
(i) Any vehicle on an occasion when it is being used for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes, if the observance of that provision would be likely to hinder the use of that vehicle for the purpose for which it is being used on that occasion.

This Order was made on 6 May 2011 and will come into force on 9 May 2011.

The Kent County Council will be considering in due course whether the provisions of this experimental Order should continue in force indefinitely.

Any alterations to this Order which will render it less restrictive may be authorised by the County Transport and Development Manager, without the requirement to re-advertise the Order under section 10 (2) of the said Act and after consultation with the chief officer of police.

Full details are contained in the Order which together with the relevant plans and a statement for the Councils reasons for making the Order may be examined at the offices of the Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way, Ashford TN24 8AD and at Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover.

Within the period of 6 months of the coming into force of the Experimental Traffic Order and person may object to this Order prior to making the Order permanent. If you wish to object to the Experimental Order you should send the grounds for your objection in writing to Kent Highway Services, Transport and Development, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford TN24 8AD or by e mail to Td.canterbury.thanet@kent.gov.uk

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER DISTRICT) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES)

(CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 5) ORDER 2011 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2 and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, proposes to introduce "At Any Time" Waiting Restrictions at various locations within the District of Dover.

The purpose of the proposal is to reduce obstruction caused by parked vehicles at junctions where visibility is impaired, thus causing concern about safety. It is therefore considered the most appropriate method to prevent motorists parking in inappropriate locations are by providing corner protection at these junctions.

Existing School – Keep Clear Markings at various locations within the district will be made enforceable and upgraded where appropriate, with signing to remind motorists of the importance of providing clear access to school sites.

The junctions subject to "At Any Time" Waiting Restrictions are:

Roads in Ash in the District of Dover:
HOLNESS ROAD / MOLLAND LEA
SANDWICH ROAD / CHERRY GARDEN LANE

Roads in Capel-le-Ferne in the District of Dover:
GREEN LANE / CAPEL STREET

Roads in Deal in the District of Dover:
BOWLING GREEN LANE – entrance opposite number 14 BRUCE GREEN / MANOR ROAD
CROSS ROAD / ST. RICHARD'S ROAD / MILL HILL
HAWKSDOWN / WHITE ACRE DRIVE
HAYWARD CLOSE – Opposite 2 and 3, south westwards for a distance of 10 metres
MILL ROAD – 2.5 metres north east of 58 and 60, north eastwards for a distance of 17 metres
NORTHCOTE ROAD – opposite number 10
SHOLDEN BANK / MONGEHAM ROAD
MONGEHAM ROAD / MONGEHAM VIEW

Roads in the District of Dover:
AVENUE ROAD / BEAONSFIELD AVENUE
BEAUFOY ROAD / ST RADIGUND'S ROAD
CHARLTON GREEN / BEAONSFIELD AVENUE
CHURCHILL ROAD / MAXTON ROAD
DICKSON ROAD – Both sides from 39 and 41 eastwards for a distance of 20 metres
North west side from land 2, north east then south eastwards for a distance of 20 metres
South east side from land 2, north east then south eastwards for a distance of 10 metres
DICKSON ROAD (MINOR SIDE RD) / DICKSON ROAD
DODDS LANE / CRABBLE HILL
DOVER ROAD – from 215, westwards for 36 metres
EATON ROAD / KITCHENER ROAD
GLOSTER ROPEWALK / GLOSTER WAY
MAXTON ROAD – 1 metre north west of A6 and A8, south eastwards for a distance of 22 metres
MAXTON ROAD / MOUNT ROAD
OLD CHARLTON ROAD – between Barton Road and Danes Court
ST DAVID'S AVENUE / ST GILES AVENUE
WHITE ACRE DRIVE / HAWKSDOWN

Roads in River in the District of Dover:
CRABBLE ROAD / MILL RACE

Roads in Sandwich in the District of Dover:
ASH ROAD – both sides of the road, either side of level crossing
DOVER ROAD / ST BARTHOLOMEW'S
STONAR ROAD / RAMSGATE ROAD
WOODNESBOROUGH ROAD / "SANDWICH LEISURE PARK" ENTRANCE
WOODNESBOROUGH ROAD / "ROPE WALK" FOOTPATH

Roads in St Margaret's-at-Cliffe in the District of Dover:
REACH ROAD / HIGH STREET
SEA STREET – "Access Road to Primary School Opposite "Portal House School"

Roads in Temple Ewell in the District of Dover:
TARGET FIRS / TARGET FIRS
TEMPLE SIDE – from number 2, south eastwards for a distance of 10 metres

Roads in Wingham in the District of Dover:
CANTERBURY ROAD – from numbers 1 and 2 "Waterlock Cottages", north east then eastwards for a distance of 60 metres

A copy of the proposed Orders, an explanatory statement and maps showing the extents of the proposals for both districts may be inspected during normal office hours at The Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX and at Dover District Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park Dover, Kent CT16 3PJ.
Anyone wishing to support, or object to the "At Any Time" Waiting Restrictions proposal should write to Mrs Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB quoting

For further information, please contact
Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800
(local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS

the name of the Order and reference No “B1647600 Dover” and stating their reasons, by not later than Monday 30th May 2011.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

SPRINGHEAD ROAD, NORTHFLEET - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Springhead Road, Northfleet between York Road and Thames Way.

The Order will become effective on 23rd May 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 3 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Thames Way, London Road and Springhead Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate renewal of existing gas main.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(A249 SITTINGBOURNE ROAD/DETLING HILL AND OTHER ROADS AT DETLING/THURNHAM/STOCKBURY) (TRAFFIC SPEED AND TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because of the likelihood of danger to the public using a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting traffic speed, the regulation of traffic and the use by traffic as described below. The order shall come into operation at times when required on 28th/29th/30th May 2011 and 15th/16th/17th July 2011.

Schedule
(The Speed limits and Traffic Regulations)

1. Traffic in excess of 40 mph shall be prohibited as follows:-
 - (i) On Detling Hill, Detling/Sittingbourne Road, Thurnham/Stockbury between the existing permanent 50 mph speed restriction at a point 480 metres north east of the junction with Scragged Oak Road to the turning for Detling Aerodrome Industrial Estate on the north east bound carriageway and from the Lily Spice restaurant on the south west bound carriageway. Also to prevent
 - (ii) Traffic in excess of 50 mph shall be prohibited from The Lily Spice restaurant to the right hand turn into Detling Aerodrome Industrial Estate and then prohibited to 40 mph to the top of Detling Hill.
 - (iii) Traffic in excess of 40 mph shall be prohibited on Sittingbourne Road/Detling Hill, Detling/Thurnham/Stockbury in both directions between its junction with the M20 roundabout (junction 7) and the M2 roundabout (junction 5).
2. No person shall, except upon the direction of a Police Officer, cause or permit a vehicle to:-
 - (i) Carry out a right hand turn from A249 south west bound into Scragged Oak Road.
 - (ii) Carry out a right hand turn from Scragged Oak Road onto the A249 south west bound.
 - (iii) Carry out a right hand turn from A249 northbound into South Green Lane.
 - (iv) Carry out a right hand turn or “U” turn on the A249 northbound at its junction with Rumstead Lane.
 - (v) Carry out a right hand turn from A249 southbound into Aerodrome Approach.
 - (vi) Carry out a right hand turn from A249 southbound into Chalky Road.
 - (vii) Carry out a right hand turn from A249 southbound into Church Hill.
 - (viii) Carry out a right hand turn from A249 southbound into Honeycrock Hill.
 - (ix) Carry out a right hand turn from Pett Lane northbound onto A249.
3. The alternative routes for traffic affected by 2(i), 2(ii), 2(iii), 2(iv), (v), (vi), (vii), (viii), (ix) above are either:-
 - (i) via the roundabout at junction 5 of the M2 motorway
 - (ii) via the roundabout at junction 7 of the M20 motorway

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(KENWARD ROAD, YALDING) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Kenward Road from Kenward Farm entrance heading northerly for 150m on or after Monday 23rd May 2011 for a period of up to 2 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Kenward Road, Bow Hill, B2015 Maidstone Road, Hampstead Lane, The Lees, High Street.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for drainage works. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Jamie Finch on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

OTFORD ROAD, SEVENOAKS - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Otford Road, Sevenoaks (residential access road running parallel to main road) from number 114 to 200.

The Order will become effective on 9th May 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 10 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate main laying works.

SWANLEY VILLAGE ROAD, SWANLEY - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Swanley Village Road, Swanley from its junction with Beechenlea Lane for 50m.

The Order will become effective on 9th May 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 10th May 2011 and last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: School Lane, Goss Hill, Gildenhill Road, Church Road and Wood Street

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT works.

DARTFORD ROAD, SEVENOAKS - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Dartford Road, Sevenoaks between The Drive and The Vine.

The Order will become effective on 23rd May 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 28th May 2011 20.00 and end 29th May 2011 17.00. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Pembroke Road, London Road, Tubs Hill and St Botolphs Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate removal of a tower crane from Southdown's Homes.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

WEST ROAD, CHERITON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to a defective area within the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on West Road, Cheriton, on or after 9 May 2011 for up to 3 nights or until the works have been completed.

The works are planned to be carried out between 7.00 pm and 5.00 am each night, with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The road will be closed from the junction with Pond Hill Road for approximately 80 metres southwards.

The alternative route is via B2063 Hospital Hill, A259 Sandgate Esplanade, Sandgate High Street, B2063 Military Road and North Road.

SHIP STREET, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ship Street, Folkestone, on or after 23 May 2011 for up to 12 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in 2 phases, initially between the junctions with Foord Road North and Boscombe Road, then from Boscombe Road to Bournemouth Road.

The alternative route is via Foord Road North, Radnor Park Road (plus Pavilion Road and Black Bull Road in reverse) and Bournemouth Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY) RESTRICTIONS AND PROHIBITIONS OF WAITING, LOADING AND UNLOADING) CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2010

(AMENDMENT NO 11)(VARIOUS ROADS, THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY)

(PROHIBITION OF STOPPING OUTSIDE OF SCHOOLS) (CONSOLIDATION) ORDER 2010 (AMENDMENT NO 1) ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2 and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, proposes to introduce “At Any Time” Waiting Restrictions at various locations within the District of Shepway.

The purpose of the proposal is to reduce obstruction caused by parked vehicles at junctions where visibility is impaired, thus causing concern about safety. It is therefore considered the most appropriate method to prevent motorists parking in inappropriate locations are by providing corner protection at these junctions.

Existing School – Keep Clear Markings at various locations within the district will be made enforceable and upgraded where appropriate, with signing to remind motorists of the importance of providing clear access to school sites.

The junctions subject to “At Any Time” Waiting Restrictions are:

Roads in Folkestone:
Beatty Road / Wood Avenue
Harcourt Road / Surrenden Road
Jointon Road / Shornecliffe Road (A259)
Langdon Road / Weymouth Road

Roads in Hawkinge:
Canterbury Road / Harvest Way
Canterbury Road / Uphill

Roads in Hythe:
Ashford Road (A20) / Stone Street
Cobay Close / Twiss Road

Roads in Lyminge:
Church Road / High Street

Roads in New Romney:
Craythorne Lane / Rolfe Lane

A copy of the proposed Orders, an explanatory statement and a map showing the extents of the scheme may be inspected during normal office hours at The Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX and at Shepway District Council Offices, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY.

Anyone wishing to support, or object to the “At Any Time” Waiting Restrictions proposal should write to Mrs Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB quoting the name of the Order and reference No “B1647600 Shepway” and stating their reasons, by not later than Monday 30th May 2011.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

PIERREMONT AVENUE & SOWELL STREET, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to potholes, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pierremont Avenue & Sowell Street, Broadstairs, on or after 10 May 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

PIERREMONT AVENUE will be closed from the junction with High Street to outside number 6.
From 10 May 2011 for 1 day, between 8.00 am and 5.00 pm

The alternative routes are Southbound via High Street, Clarendon Road and Pierremont Avenue
Northbound via Pierremont Avenue, Queens Road and High Street.

SOWELL STREET for its entire length
From 16 May 2011 for 2 days, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm
The alternative is via St Peter’s Road, The Broadway and B2053 St Peter’s Park Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(LONG MILL LANE, PLATT) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Long Mill Lane, outside of ‘Wychwood’ on or after Monday 23rd May 2011 when required for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Comp Lane, Boneashe Lane, Potash Lane, Long Mill Lane.

UK Power Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to supply a new service. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Alena Piralic of Renteq Traffic Management Ltd on 01634 256291.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(FARNHAM LANE, LANGTON GREEN) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Farnham Lane outside “Cherry Trees” on or after Monday 9th May 2011 for a period of up to 3 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Dornden Drive, Long Meads, Nellington Road, Farnham Lane.

UK Power Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for installing cabling. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Scott Davis on 01732 783986.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(WEST ROAD, GOUDHURST) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on West Road from North Road/Balcombes Hill to Old School on or after Wednesday 11th May 2011 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via A262 Station Road, A21 Lamberhurst By-Pass/Hastings Road, A268 The Mount/High Street, A229 Cranbrook Road/Hawkhurst Road/Hartley Road/Angle Road, A262 Goudhurst Road/Cranbrook Road.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for carriageway patching. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Susan Laporte on 08458 247 800.

Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XQ

Dated 6th May 2011

For further information, please contact
Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800
(local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

PROW - City of Canterbury

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB177 (PART) ICKHAM & WELL)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND
STATEMENT
MODIFICATION ORDER 2011**

The above Order, made under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 will divert that length of Public Footpath CB177 which commences on the A257 Wingham Road at TR 2137 5722 (point A) and runs south-eastwards for 119 metres to TR 2144 5712 (point B) to a new length of Public Footpath CB177 with a width of 2.5 metres which commences on the A257 Wingham Road at TR 2138 5722 (point C), 12.5 metres east-south-east of the aforementioned point A, and runs southwards for 51 metres, thence east-south-eastwards for 81 metres, and thence south-south-westwards for 23 metres to the aforementioned point B.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the offices of Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW or at the Kent County Council Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representations about or objections to the Order may be sent in writing to Mrs Maria McLauchlan at the Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX (Tel: 01622 696871) before 7th June 2011. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

If no representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 19**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE
REGISTER OF TOWN OR VILLAGE GREENS**

Application has been made to the Registration Authority, Kent County Council, by Mrs. A. Wilks under section 19(4) of the Commons Act 2006 and in accordance with the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008. The application seeks to correct mistakes by the Registration Authority in making an entry in the Register of Town or Village Greens. The effect of the application, if successful, is to add land to, and make clerical amendments to, the Register of Town or Village Greens for unit number VG128, as described in the Schedule below.

The application may be inspected at the offices of Kent County Council at the address below. Please contact the Commons Registration Team on 01622 221511 to make an appointment prior to visiting to ensure that a member of the team is available to assist you.

Any person wishing to make representations regarding the application should send a written statement of the facts upon which the representation is based to the Commons Registration Team at Kent County Council, either by post at the address below or by email to commons.villagegreens@kent.gov.uk, so as to arrive no later than Wednesday 22nd June 2011. Please quote reference CA27/VG128. Representations must include the name and postal address of the person making them and the nature of their interest (if any) in the land affected by the application. They must also be signed by the person making them and state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that any representations that are to be taken into account by the Registration Authority in reaching a decision on the application cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain during the processing of the application. Copies of any objections or representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment and may be disclosed to other interested parties, including the

Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

Description and effect of the application

The application seeks to make the following amendments to the Register of Town or Village Greens for unit number VG128:

1. To amend the Register entry so as to remove the reference to 'the Beach Chalets and curtilages thereof' and to replace this with 'the beach chalets and their gardens fronting Faversham Road';
2. To amend the Register plan to reflect the original application place, i.e. to include the land between the northern boundary of the chalets and the southern boundary of Village Green as currently registered. The land to be included in the registration consists of what are now the rear gardens of the beach chalets fronting Faversham Road; and
3. To amend the Register entry so as to remove the reference to 'Seasalter Beach' and to replace this with 'part of the beach at Seasalter'.

PROW - Borough of Dartford

**NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY
CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS DS1, DS30 & DS3
IN THE PARISH OF SWANSCOMBE & GREENHITHE**

(Public Footpaths, DS1, DS30 & DS3 in the Parish of Swanscombe & Greenhithe)

(Prohibition Of Traffic) Temporary Order 2011

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Section 14(1), As Amended By The Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed:

Public Footpaths DS1, DS30 & DS3, between point (National Grid Reference) NGR TQ 595 754 and NGR TQ 595 751 from the 25th April 2011.

The paths will be closed for a maximum of six months, however the works are likely to extend beyond this time limit and an extension may be applied for.

The paths are to be closed to allow groundworks in connection with Ingress Park secondary means of access and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is through Ingress Park along Duncannon Place and Portland Place to rejoin DS1 at the riverside and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Olivia Bonham
Tel: 01732 872829 (3)

PROW - District of Shepway

**NOTICE OF CREATION AGREEMENT & DEED OF
DEDICATION**

**HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 25
THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

**DEDICATION OF A PUBLIC FOOTPATH AT PALMARSH,
HYTHE**

**PUBLIC PATH CREATION AGREEMENT & DEED OF
DEDICATION**

**RELATING TO
LAND AT PALMARSH, KENT – PUBLIC FOOTPATH HB84**

The Kent County Council has recently completed the above named Creation Agreement and Deed of Dedication. The effect of the Agreement and Deed of Dedication is to add Public Footpath HB84 which commences at the western end of St George's Place (Point A, NGR TR 1387 3373) and runs in a northerly direction for 18 metres then west south westerly for 153 metres. At this point there is a pedestrian gate. The path then turns to run in a north north westerly direction for 7 metres crossing over the Romney, Hythe

& Dymchurch Railway to its connection with Nightingale Avenue, again at this point there is a pedestrian gate (Point C NGR TR 1371 372) (between the points A-B-C on the Order plan). The path has a varying width of between 1.5 and 2.0 metres.

All distances approximate, all directions general.

A copy of the Creation Agreement and Deed of Dedication have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Countryside Access Service at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Agreement and Deed of Dedication may be purchased there. Please contact Laura Wilkins at the address above.

PROW - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

**NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 SECTION 257
THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

**PUBLIC FOOTPATH WC256 (PART) FRITTENDEN
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND
STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011**

On 19 April 2011 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under Section 257 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990.

The effect of the Order will be to divert the entire width of that length of Public Footpath WC256 which commences at the eastern boundary of St Mary's Church (Point A, NGR TQ 8136 4096) and runs in a north easterly direction for 38 metres to its connection with WC257A and the unaffected length of Public Footpath WC256 (Point B, NGR TQ 8138 4099) and to provide a new length of Public Footpath WC256 which commences at the previously mentioned Point A at NGR TQ 8136 4096 and runs in a north easterly direction for 37 metres to the north western side of the new boundary to Frittenden CE Primary School, thence south easterly for 6.5 metres to its connection with Public Footpath WC257A and the unaffected length of Public Footpath WC256 (Point B, NGR TQ 8138 4099). The path has a width of 2.0 metres except for the first 6.0 metres from Point A (NGR TQ 8136 4096) where the width starts at 1.2 metres in order to connect with the existing gateway and gradually increases to 2.0 metres.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at The Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX (01622 221517) during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on the date on which the Kent County Council certify that the terms of Article 2 of the Order have been complied with, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, or of any regulation made under the Act has not been complied with in relation to confirmation of the Order, he or she may apply to the High Court for any of these purposes under Section 287 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 within six weeks of the date on which Notice is first published as required by paragraph (7) (8) of Schedule 14 to that Act.

For detailed enquiries please contact:

**Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XX**

Dated: 7th May 2011

The above notice(s) may be provided in other formats

For further information, please contact
Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

**Kent Police Authority
Audit of Accounts 2010-2011**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Sections 14 and 15 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003:

1. From 31 May 2011 to 27 June 2011, between the hours of 10am and 4pm, Mondays to Fridays, any person interested, on application to the Treasurer at the Kent Police Authority, Gail House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6NB, may inspect and make copies of the accounts of the above named authority for the year ended 31 March 2011, and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, and receipts relating there to.
2. From 28 June 2011 until the audit is closed local government electors for the area to which the accounts relate may exercise their rights under sections 15 and 16 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 to question the auditor about or make objections to the accounts. The external auditor, Darren Wells, can be contacted at: Audit Commission, Millbank Tower, London, SW1P 4HQ

David Lewis,
Treasurer



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BIRTHS

GJINI

Sebastian James, born on 15th April, 2011, weighing 7lb 6oz. Son to Zoe and Ilir in Ramsgate. Our most beautiful and precious son.

MEAD

Harry, born on 15th April, 2011, weighing 7lb. Son to Scott Mead and Abigail Phippen.

MOUNTER

Beautiful Lucy Olivia Mounter, born at home on 17th April, 2011, at 12.26pm. We love you very much, from Mummy, Daddy and Hannah xxx.

WILLIAMS

Valentina and Paul are thrilled to announce the birth of their first baby, James Maxim Williams, who was born on 13th April, 2011. Proud grandparents are Tochka, Colin, Valko, Barbara, Anthony and Ann. James weighed in at 8lb 4oz.

WINES

Ben and Chelsey Wines celebrate the birth of their beautiful baby daughter, Isabelle, on 15th April, 2011, at Darent Valley Hospital.

DEATHS

CANN

Joan Cann of Margate died peacefully on 24th April, 2011. Funeral

service was held at Thanet Crematorium on 6th May, 2011.

DRYLAND

Anna Dora (known as Dora) on 18th April, 2011, aged 91. Dearly loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral service at Vinters Park, 13:15, on 13th May. Family flowers only, donations to British Heart Foundation. Many thanks to the staff at Betsy Clara House.

PETERS

Ruth Olive Peters passed away suddenly at the William Harvey Hospital on the 26th April, 2011. Missed by Michael and Anthony and families. Reunited with Henry. Funeral service at St Monicas, Dymchurch, and burial at Burmarsh. Family flowers only. Donations to Pilgrims Hospice, Ashford. Any enquiries to Firmagers Funeral Directors.

READ

John Dennis Read died suddenly on 19th April, 2011, aged 88. Dearly loved father of Michael and David and grandfather to James, Jennifer, Katie, and Jodie. Funeral service at Vinters Park Crematorium, 11:45am, Tuesday, 10th May. Family flowers only but donations may be made at the crematorium.

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A summer house could solve your space issues

PAGE 62



VILLAGE PEOPLE

Collectively-owned pub benefits from the skills of talented chef

PAGE 47

Kent Weekend

Back to basics

Keith James celebrates the genius of Leonard Cohen

TURN TO PAGE 43

PLUS: Death and why it's possibly the most taboo subject of all - **talking point p44** And after death out come the castle ghosts who would very much like to meet you - **exhibitions and events p55** Subaru's functional Forester keeps style with the performance - **driving p73**



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THE INTERVIEW

KEITH James's artistic reinterpretations have spanned the melodies of the New York folk revival and the poetry of the Spanish surrealist movement – and, what's more, they have proved popular with audiences.

His stripping back of the songs of Leonard Cohen to, in his words, "present the songs in their most naked form", is the latest incarnation of this.

"I've always been a sworn fan of his and something struck me. As he went through his career, the production became, to me, more and more at odds with the words," said James.

"If you listen to his early work, there was a tiny bit of production, but as he went on, his albums became more synthetic. And yet the intrinsic value of the songs was utterly brilliant, as it had always been."

James believes it's this lyrical brilliance that makes Cohen's work worthy of the attention it still receives.

He said: "This tour, from the point of view of interest and attendance, is certainly going better than anything I've ever done... it's his lyrics – they're absolutely fantastic."

"During the course of concerts, songs that started life as poems are the ones that make people just sit and have goose-bumps. Songs like Famous Blue Raincoat, Chelsea Hotel and Suzanne, which are all fairly early songs and as bare as they could ever be."

James is drawn to the simple nature of these songs because of their authenticity.

"They come from an era when there was a tremendous amount of thought process going into song-writing. People were writing with no aid whatsoever aside from the instrument they had, the era they lived in and little else."

"In the 60s, Canadian and American artists' work demonstrated their reverence for life, freedom and their new take on everything to do with government and the Cold War and Vietnam. There was a huge amount of freedom of lyric and a great amount of wholesome music."

For James, the attraction of the 60s folk revolution is due to the artists' dedication to their work.

He said: "When a person can immerse themselves almost to the point of desolation in their writing, with a disregard for self, I think that brings out absolutely fantastic writing and also a tremendous amount of humility."

"That's something we don't have these days. You know, everybody's got four of everything. So how can we write about any part of life being

Hallelujah for Cohen

Guitarist and singer Keith James talks to **Ed Hill** about the lyrical brilliance of singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen and how he aims to reinterpret the Canadian maestro's work on his latest tour



missing, or deprived, or fragile? Most people don't reach that state of mind very often."

The guitarist and singer turned to music after becoming disillusioned with the commercial world.

He said: "Music's always been a big part of my life. I've never really had a proper job. I could possibly trace it all back to my school band and the first time we played a gig."

"When I left school I didn't go straight into music, I went into design and marketing in the fashion industry for about three years. I became fairly disillusioned with that and then started performing on the wine-bar circuit and had some fairly immediate success."

After recording and performing his own songs, James stumbled across the work of Spanish modernist poet Federico Garcia Lorca, which in turn led him to reinterpret Cohen's

work. "I heard a poem by Pablo Neruda being recited on Radio Four and I went to the Albion Bookshop in Broadstairs to buy a book of his poetry," he said. "They didn't have anything, although they did have work by Lorca. I bought that book instead as the poets shared an affection for one another's work."

"Not very long after that, I went to Andalucia on holiday and I did as much research as I could about Lorca. I went to all the museums, his birthplace and where he was executed."

Through his research came the idea of a musical reinterpretation of Lorca's poetry.

He said: "I fell in love with his poetry and I then realised the intrinsic link between Lorca and Cohen. I can now hear in a great deal of Cohen's work the influence of Lorca. Take This Waltz is the Lorca poem Little Viennese Waltz set to music. Cohen translated it himself."

Cohen's practice of setting Lorca's poetry to music will feature in the current tour and inform James's future plans.

He said: "I'm planning a tour called Duende, a curious word which doesn't really translate into English, featuring the poetry of Pablo Neruda and Lorca and the Brazilian poet Chico Buarque and setting it to music. The origins of the word Duende are in flamenco and it will be mainly based on classical and flamenco guitar."

The success of the current tour has ensured that James's year will revolve around the songs of Leonard Cohen.

■ Keith James is at the St Mary's Arts Centre, Sandwich, on Saturday, May 21, at 8pm. To buy tickets, phone 01304 611600/620404 or visit www.stmarysartscentre.org.uk. He is also at the Trinity Arts Theatre in Tunbridge Wells on Friday, June 17.

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TALKING POINT

'Real' death on TV debate

DEATH and dying have hit the headlines after it emerged that the BBC is to screen the final moments of a terminally ill man. The broadcaster's decision has sparked controversy and debate about whether it is acceptable to show 'real' death on television.

Like birth, death is a natural and inescapable part of life, so why is showing it such a contentious issue? After all, we are used to seeing the intimacy and emotion of 'real' birth on TV. Are we afraid to confront the reality of life ending?

The man who features in the scientific series *Inside the Human Body*, 84-year-old Gerald, was a patient at Hospice in the Weald in Pembury, near Tunbridge Wells. The chief executive at the palliative care centre, Rob Woolley, has welcomed the debate about death and dying that news of the programme has brought.

Meanwhile, Vivienne Pattison, the director of the Ashford-based pressure group Mediawatch UK, which campaigns for family values in the media, said the idea of screening the death made her feel "uneasy", but she was not "jumping up and down" about it like the recent "one-sided" coverage of euthanasia.

Both agreed that our unease about seeing death has developed fairly recently, because about 100 years ago, when people died in their homes and open casket wakes were still popular, it would have been all around us.

Mr Woolley said: "There has been a societal change in the way we talk about death and dying. There is an argument that we've over-medicalised death. Acute hospitals and medical professionals – all they want to do is save lives and when they cannot, it becomes difficult for them.

"Hospitals are a great place for doctors and diagnoses, but when we are going to die they are not a great place to go for end-of-life care."

Death has been shown on television before, and in 1998, a scientific BBC programme called *The Human Body* broadcast the final breaths of a man with cancer.

But Mr Woolley said he was surprised about the subject matter when the BBC approached him about their recent programme because it was controversial.

After long discussions about the ethical and moral issues, the hospice asked patients and their families if they wanted to take part. Once they were reassured about how the issues were being handled, Mr Woolley said: "In common with other hospices, we want there to be a more open and honest discussion about death and dying."

"Obviously it was the patient's and his family's choice whether to take part, but we did want to play a role in there being more discussion about death and dying."

Gerald, who had cancer, died on January 1, surrounded by his family. He said he hoped filming his death would help others. He said: "I don't want to die, but pretty evidently unless some miracle happens, I ain't gonna be here very long ... I'm not frightened."

Ms Pattison saw a difference between screening the natural death of Gerald and the BBC programme that filmed a man dying at a Dignitas clinic, that saw it accused of being a "cheerleader for assisted suicide".

"It is slightly different. This one is part of a scientific series, that is the way they are justifying it," she said. "I would say I feel uneasy about it."

"I'm not jumping up and down and I'm sure it is going to be done in a wonderful way, but there is still this sense of unease about these moments being filmed. It is all to do with taboos... it is an incredibly personal moment."

She said the pressure group was not pro or

As the BBC prepares to show the final moments of a man dying from cancer, Jenna Pudelek asks why the subject is still taboo

WHY SHOULDN'T WE TALK ABOUT DEATH?

“““

I would say I feel uneasy about it. There is still a sense of unease about these moments being filmed, it is all to do with taboos... it is an incredibly personal moment

VIVIENNE PATTISON,
MEDIAWATCH UK



anti euthanasia, but was concerned that there were a lot of 'pro' programmes.

Asked if there was a concern that death on TV would become normalised, she said: "I hope it does not, and I hope it is treated with respect."

Presenter of *Inside the Human Body*, Michael Mosely, told the *Radio Times* he believed it was important not to avoid talking about death.

"I think there is a case to be made for filming a peaceful, natural death – a view shared by many who work closely with the dying."

Mr Woolley and staff at the hospice know firsthand the importance of talking about dying.

"As a hospice we see the fall-out for carers,



family members and friends if there is not a discussion," he said. "We see the impact on people psychologically and their problems facing grief."

"There needs to be an open and honest discussion and that is particularly true with children."

"It can cause all kinds of mental health problems if there is no discussion about dying."

He said society devoted so much time talking about pregnancy and birthing plans, but no one wants to mention end-of-life care.

"Wills are about money, possessions and funeral costs, not about how people want to die," he said. "That is a big issue for us, all of us."

This is because people are not ending their lives the way they want. A study by the independent think-tank Demos found that two thirds of people want to die in their own home, but by 2030 it is estimated that only one in 10 will achieve this.

Mr Woolley used an example of a man who got in touch with the hospice to say his father needed to come in, but as he had not discussed his diagnosis, could they not mention it was a hospice.

"People try to hide it with the best intentions, but it does not help."

FINAL TABOO:

Presenter of *Inside the Human Body*, Michael Mosely, believes it is important to talk about death and dying. Below, Rob Woolley, chief executive of Hospice in the Weald, and Vivienne Pattison, of Mediawatch UK

HAVE YOUR SAY...

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KENT REMEMBERED



WHAT A STORY: Top left: Count Louis Zborowski and Ian Fleming with the car that inspired a book and then film. Below left is the Count's former home, Highland Court. The film, as advertised above, tells a very different story to the book



The real Chitty Chitty Bang Bang still lives

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

NEXT week in an auction house in Los Angeles one of the most famous cars in movie history goes on sale.

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, complete with silver bodywork and red-and-yellow wings, could fetch up to \$2 million.

But – minus the wings and painted in British racing green – Chitty Chitty Bang Bang really did exist, in three different versions.

Powered by engines originally constructed for Zeppelin airships and designed by millionaire racing driver Louis Zborowski, who lived at Highland Court, Patricxbourne, near Canterbury, the first won two races and was capable of speeds of up to 120 mph.

One was then bought by the two sons of Sherlock Holmes writer Arthur Conan Doyle and eventually broken up.

The second was driven across the Sahara Desert by the Count and his friends before his death in a crash in the Italian Grand Prix in Monza. It was later bought by a man named Bill Hollis from Temple Ewell for £300 and a Hillman Minx.

He sold it on in the 1960s to an American collector for £16,500, who had it displayed at a museum in Cleveland, Ohio. It was loaned to the motor museum at Beaulieu in 1992, before finding a permanent home in the private collection of Bob Bahre at his Paris Hill, Maine residence – the former mansion of Hannibal Hamelin,



GHOST ROAD: Chitty can apparently be heard at night

Abraham Lincoln's first Vice President

The fate of the third car is uncertain but according to rumours it lies buried in a small cave somewhere in the grounds of Highland Court.

Many attempts have been made to locate it – but so far none have been successful

During his time at the house Count Zborowski, the son of a Polish nobleman and an American woman, made the acquaintance of James Bond's creator Ian Fleming, who lived just down the A2 at St Margarets-at-Cliffe.

Fleming became fascinated with the Count and his cars and wrote his children's story Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, featuring inventor Caractacus Potts and Truly Scrumptious – a name supposed to parody Bond heroines such as Pussy Galore and Honeychile Rider.

The film, which has a story

totally unlike the book, was released in 1968 and a remake is currently being prepared.

In reality the Count – who also started the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway – built the first Chitty in 1920 with the assistance of an engineer named Captain Clive Gallop. It was a chain-driven Mercedes chassis fitted with a 23 litre Maybach aero engine. At the Esater meeting at Brookland Race Track it recorded a win in the Short Handicap with a speed of 100.75 mph.

In 1921 Chitty II was being built and it only raced once. However the Count used it as a day-to-day road car and one of his favourite routes for putting his foot down and opening up the throttle was a straight stretch of road between Bridge and Patricxbourne now spanned by the A2 bridge. It is this piece of highway which has given rise to a further legend concerning the car.

Local folklore says that the roar of the 230hp Benz BZ IV aero engine can still be heard and the car – with the ghostly goggled figure of the Count at the wheel – can still be seen on some dark nights.

The spectral vehicle is then heard driving up to the front of the old mansion, before the sound stops as if someone is getting out. The engines are then heard again receding into the distance.

Just after the halt, according to the story, the door to a part of the house called The Green Room flies open – even if it has been left locked.

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FOOD & DRINK

Flavours of Kent

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Chef's bid to make good on villagers' investment

WHEN chef Richard Bayliss came to the Farriers Arms in Mersham he knew it would be no ordinary job interview. The pub, which had been neglected for months, had been taken over by a group of villagers who were now shareholders in a new business.

Richard said: "I was a bit suspicious because I thought the directors might just want pub food, but when we sat down they said to me it's your baby, you can do what you want."

The shareholders had contributed money, time and labour to refurbish the pub and had added a new restaurant called The Anvil in which the head chef could make his mark.

He said: "There was a mixed view from the shareholders. Some wanted a traditional pub – others wanted a fine-dining restaurant. Basically I am trying to combine the two. It is difficult, but I think we have the balance right."

"I wanted to take the pub to the next level, which is where the pub trade is going in general. If you're not a gastro pub, it is very difficult to survive, particularly in the countryside."

Richard finds during the week most of the locals are happy to have the toned-down bar menu, but at the weekends customers come for the à la carte choice.

"I think you have to be sensible and look at

Ed Hill talks to Farriers Arms chef Richard Bayliss, who is striving to make his mark at the Mersham gastro pub

AMBITIOUS: Richard Bayliss, chef at the Farriers Arms, is charged with changing the fortunes of a pub that has been bought and refurbished by a consortium of villagers

it from a business perspective. We have a lot of people from the village who come and eat with us during the week. They are not going to want fine dining every time, but on Fridays and Saturdays it is a different matter," he said.

And Richard, who began his cooking career as a commis chef at the age of 14, is still ambitious with the food. Ingredients are sourced locally and the menu changes with the seasons.

He said: "Our fish comes from Dymchurch, the meat comes from a butcher in Aldington who only uses Kent and Sussex meat, and my vegetables come from a supplier in Ashford. I try to change the menu every three months. I work with my suppliers very closely and I can be very demanding. If I want something, I want it as soon as possible."

Dishes have included rump of lamb, home-smoked pork loin and savoury ice-creams.

Richard said: "I have found that diners are more adventurous these days. I like to think we take old-fashioned dishes and use new techniques to change the taste and the texture."

"Even so, I don't think you should muck

around with flavours that work. There is a reason they have become established, but it's good to try to inject more flavour and texture into them or give them a new twist. I like to create a surprise on the plate when the food comes out to the customer."

The chef is ambitious for critical success but only if it helps the business.

He said: "I want to build on what we have started. I would like to get rosettes and stars in the future, but not to the extent where it affects trade. It's no good having chef's accolades if it reduces your trade."

Richard has also got used to having more than 100 shareholders all with a keen interest in what he does. "They are very honest," he said. "If they don't like something they soon let me know, but they are a fantastic bunch of people who will do anything for me."

"To have that much knowledge in so many different areas is a real help. Everybody is so enthusiastic and there's so much passion behind the pub and that makes me lift my game as well."

■ Visit www.thefarriersarms.com

Farmers' markets

Capel-le-Ferne

THE Capel-le-Ferne market is held every Tuesday and started as a new venture in April 2003 following an idea put forward by the village hall management committee to provide a service for the community. It has approximately 20 stalls every week.

Bridge

THE market at Bridge is held next to The Red Lion on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. It aims to give shoppers the opportunity to buy high-quality, fresh local food and drink that contributes to their well-being, protects their environment and respects animal welfare.

Sissinghurst

SISSINGHURST market is in the Elizabethan barn next to the Granary restaurant in the famous Sissinghurst Castle National Trust site on the second Monday of the month between midday and 3pm. It is a popular market, especially because of its lovely surroundings.

Westerham

Westerham Town Partnership organises the market to promote high-quality, locally-produced food and drink on the first and third Sundays every month in the town square. The aim is to reduce the need to travel, reduce food miles and packaging waste.

Sandwich

AT the heart of the historic town of Sandwich is the guildhall and cattle market, where the farmers' market is held, selling top-quality produce of all kinds. It takes place on the last Saturday in the month between the hours of 9am and 1pm.

Whitstable

THE Whitstable farmer's market opens on the second and fourth Saturday of every month in St Mary's Hall. There you can buy organic produce from within 30 miles of Whitstable, although most farmers are much closer, selling local produce.

■ For more farmers' markets, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk

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The Apprentice

Starts Tuesday, May 10, 9pm, BBC One

LORD Alan Sugar is back with a new series of the award-winning reality show The Apprentice.

But this time, it is a little different. Gone are the days when 16 potential captains of industry duked it out for a six-figure salary to eat the crumbs from the millionaires' top table. Now, the contestants will be pushing themselves to the front of the queue for a £250,000 prize fund that will be invested into their own business.

The winning contestant will be able to choose what type of business they wish to set up and will have the backing and mentoring of Lord Sugar, with each taking a 50/50 stake in the company. If anything, this could be more lucrative than the original competition.

Just like before, series seven features 16 contestants who will be divided into two teams each week, with one nominated project manager. The teams will go head to head in a series of tasks selected by Lord Sugar that will test their business skills to the limits.

The two teams will then compete against each other under the watchful eye of Karren Brady and Nick Hewer, who will report their findings back to Lord Sugar.

After completing the task, both teams return to the boardroom to find out which team has won. Winning the task is usually dependent on gaining the most profit.

Winners are rewarded with a treat, while the losing team's project manager will select two individuals to accompany them back into the boardroom to possibly cop the chop. The three candidates put their case to Lord Sugar, who decides who will be fired.

But the simplicity ends there as the group of desperate hopefuls vie for attention and begin the slanging matches that can either enhance or destroy their reputations in the business world. Please let there be another Stuart 'The Brand' Baggs this year.



CONTEST: Lord Sugar will go into business with the winner as The Apprentice meets Dragons' Den

Chicago cops fight to blow away windy-city crime

IN a city swamped by crime and corruption, Chicago police officers know they have to stay ahead of the game or risk being blown away. From gangs to City Hall, they rub shoulders with the worst the windy city has to offer, fighting a daily battle to clean up the streets and the corridors of power.

Detective Teresa Colvin (Jennifer Beals, Lie To Me), the first female superintendent in the Chicago police department, makes it her personal mission to stamp out politicians

The Chicago Code

Starts Thursday, May 12, 9pm, Sky One

looking for an easy life and a few backhanders.

At her side is cocksure policeman and former husband Jarek Wysocki (Jason Clarke, Brotherhood), a veteran who still loves his ex-wife and hates profanity. The pair are not afraid to cause a stink to put the city back on the straight and narrow – even if that means being caught in the crosshairs of building magnate-

turned-politician, Alderman Ronin Gibbons (Delroy Lindo).

The new series debuts in the UK on satellite channel Sky One, which has a good reputation for bringing US dramas to the British public.

In the first episode, Colvin lobbies for a corruption task force to investigate a politician, and Wysocki attends the scene of a murder with his new partner Caleb Evers.

This is a classic police drama from The Shield creator Shawn Ryan.



CANDID: The Bee Gees talk about their lives

The brothers Gibb call the tune

Bee Gees: In Our Own Time

Friday, May 13, 9pm, BBC Four

ARE they musical geniuses, or bearded oddballs with squeaky voices and an unusual sense of style? Well, if you're considering watching a programme about their legacy, you probably think they're rather good.

And of course, very few bands have contributed quite so much to the musical landscape throughout the years as the Gibb brothers. Even if their voices are a touch on the supersonic side of things.

In Our Own Time is the compelling story of the Bee Gees' career... from their roots in north-west England, through their early career in Australia, their return to England and an international breakthrough in the late 1960s. Not to mention the global superstardom with Saturday Night Fever and beyond.

Alongside the success is the heartache of the tragically early deaths of first their younger brother Andy and then Maurice. The story is told through the words of Barry and Robin Gibb and extensive interviews with Maurice filmed shortly before his death in January 2003.

The Bee Gees are synonymous with the UK pop charts and are often the first band anyone thinks of whenever the word 'disco' is uttered.

With estimated record sales standing at 220 million, as well as 45 years of tours and film soundtracks, the Gibb brothers are certainly worthy of a documentary.

Their writing talents were also explored by Diana Ross with Chain Reaction, Dolly Parton with Islands In The Stream and Status Quo with Spicks And Specks. But did you know that the brothers were born on the Isle Of Man? This documentary explores all you fans know and a few things you didn't.

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INCLUDED:
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- 7 nights half board at a 4-star hotel on the Slovenian coast
- Excursions
- All transfers abroad



Corinth Canal, Greek Islands & Istanbul

Escorted Rail-Cruise
Afternoon departure from London

12 days
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Departs: May 5, June 24, Sept 12 & Oct 2, 2011

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• Italy - Genoa
• Greece - Katakolon,

Santorini, Mykonos, Piraeus (Athens) & Corinth Canal

- Turkey - Istanbul
- Sicily - Messina
- Disembark Marseilles

ITINERARY INCLUDED:

- Champagne Check-in at St Pancras
- Escorted throughout
- Afternoon departure on Eurostar to Paris or Lille
- 1 night hotel B&B in Paris or Lille
- TGV rail travel to Marseilles
- 10-night Full-Board cruise on the Louis Coral
- Return rail travel to London
- All transfers abroad

Greece, Italy & Albania

Escorted Rail-Cruise
Afternoon departure from London

10 days
Quote GS10-KOS
£999pp

Departs: October 7, 2011

CRUISE PORTS OF CALL:

- Embark France - Marseilles
- Sicily - Messina
- Albania - Saranda

- Greece - Corfu, Corinthos & Katakolon
- Italy - Genoa
- Disembark in Marseilles

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Champagne Check-in
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- 1 evening with live entertainment
- Included visits to Monaco, Portofino, Eze & San Remo
- Return rail travel to London
- All transfers abroad

WALKS White Horse Wood

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent

Diversity and history mingle on this walk through some of the finest landscapes of the North Downs

ENJOY a short relaxing stroll around White Horse Wood, which is part of the North Downs and an area recognised for its attractive landscape.

Offering beautiful countryside and fascinating local history, there are frequent rest stops, giving you the ideal opportunity to admire the outstanding views of this beautiful part of the county.

Located just outside the busy county town of Maidstone within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, White Horse Wood is a named Site of Nature Conservation Interest.

It is a diverse landscape with dramatic chalk escarpments, secluded valleys, networks of sleepy lanes and hedgerows, ancient woodlands, distinctive villages, precious wildlife and many sites of historic and cultural interest.

All these make up a landscape that is such a valuable national asset that it was nationally designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1968.

More than 20,000 trees have been planted at the site, including oak, ash, silver birch, wild cherry and crab apple. And five hectares of land have been seeded to create an area of open grassland.

Just a short diversion from the planned route will take you past the medieval ruins of Thurnham Castle on the edge of the North Downs. The north side of the bailey wall still stands 10ft high and originally it enclosed an area of about a quarter of an acre. The west wall has completely collapsed.

There is no visible stonework on the large motte, although there were once two towers and an outer curtain wall.

The castle is thought to have been constructed by Robert de Thurnham in the reign of Henry II. Within the park boundaries, beneath the grass there lurks even more fascinating history: a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age enclosure some 3,000 years old.

The North Downs Way National Trail passes through White Horse Wood on its way from Farnham in Surrey to Dover. Much of the trail follows the Pilgrims Way, the legendary route used by pilgrims on their way from Winchester to Canterbury where they would pray at the tomb of martyred Thomas Becket.

Along the Pilgrims Way itself is the popular Black Horse pub in Thurnham, a gastro inn with accommodation.

On the other side of Detling Hill is the Kent County Showground. Why not time your visit to coincide with one of the many great family events that happen at the showground? Either that, or finish your afternoon walk with a stop at one of the village pubs in the area such as the 14th-century Cock Horse Inn at Detling.

Maidstone has three railway stations and excellent bus connections as well as two museums.

- **Location:** White Horse Wood, ME14 3JG
- **Distance:** 0.7 miles (1.1km), allow 30 mins
- **OS Explorer Map:** 125
- **Terrain:** Hard surface area
- **Step count:** Approx 1,800
- **Parking:** A pay-and-display car park operates at the park
- **Refreshments and facilities:** There are pubs and a shop in nearby Detling village and Thurnham



BREATHTAKING SCENERY: White Horse Wood walk is located within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and has been named a Site of Nature Conservation Interest



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KENT ATTRACTIONS

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Live show Glam rockers' tribute night

Orchard Theatre, Dartford

Thursday, May 19
 01322 220000 or visit
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

FORTY years ago, a record that inspired glam rock was released. Get It On, written by Marc Bolan and T.Rex, spent four weeks at No 1. Now T.REXTASY, the only band endorsed and approved by Bolan's family, will be playing homage to the great man's biggest hits. The group will be joined by Aladdinsane, the country's leading tribute act to David Bowie. They faithfully re-create the sights and sounds of many of his classic songs. Fans say Aladdinsane have the ability to draw in their audience and throw a spectacular piece of rock history right back at them. Classic music fans will not be disappointed by these two top-class glam-rock tribute acts. Rock on with tickets at £19.50 and £18.50.



Time travel A trip back to Hellfire Corner

Dover Castle

Sat to Mon, May 28-30
 open 10am to 5pm
www.english-heritage.org.uk

THE final bank holiday of spring brings with it a special event to journey back in time to the Second World War. Discover Winston Churchill's secret bunker at Dover Castle and Hellfire Corner. History buffs can experience what it was like for intelligence experts and soldiers taking cover with the air-raid siren blaring in the wartime tunnels in the chalky white cliffs. Learn what it was like to ration and how evacuation changed the lives of so many people from Kent. See the secret tactics room and dorm rooms that housed the British intelligence teams during the 1940s. Youngsters can also take part in the Dover obstacle course while also learning to make their own gas-mask box to take home.

The Dockyard Night in the museum

Chatham Dockyard

Saturday, May 14, 7.30pm
 01634 823845 or email
museumatnight@chdt.org.uk

THE Historic Dockyard at Chatham will host an exciting event in support of Museums At Night. The national campaign, led by Culture24, showcases the unique and vibrant museums, galleries,

heritage sites, libraries and archives around the UK. A Night At The Museum's spooky sleepover, sponsored by Sky Arts, will be held for the first time in the remarkable No 1 Smithery building at the famous Medway dockyard. There have been unexplained experiences in this listed building and scheduled ancient monument since it opened to the public last year. This event includes activities during the evening of May 14, including rocket-firing and a ghost tour in the Wooden Walls of England that is suitable for

all ages. A quiz trail around No 1 Smithery and a sunset ceremony at the end of the evening are all included. Supper and breakfast will be served. There is a limited number of subsidised tickets, courtesy of Sky Arts at a cost of £3 per person, but once these have been sold out, tickets go on sale at the normal price of £25. This event runs from 7.30pm to 9am the following morning and the minimum age to attend is eight. Children must be accompanied by a full-paying adult and all event areas have wheelchair access.

Theatre Broadwater Warren

near Tunbridge Wells

Sunday, May 8
 01580 879958
www.rspb.org.uk/reserves

SOMETHING new is happening at the RSPB's Broadwater Warren nature reserve, near Tunbridge Wells. The Company, the Sussex specialists in unusual site-specific theatre, will be presenting their latest family show on Sunday, May 8. You never know what is going to happen with The Company, but it will certainly be a unique experience. Be prepared for an entertaining show and a rollicking good story full of fun, romance and lots of audience participation. Broadwater Warren, which is being restored to heathland, provides the ideal backdrop to this new production commissioned by the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme and supported by East Sussex County Council, Wealden District Council and the RSPB. Alan Loweth, a volunteer manager at the reserve, said: "It's exciting to offer visitors this kind of experience. Lots of people already enjoy the reserve, but this is a chance to see it in a completely new light." Phoning ahead essential.



Psychic Sally Morgan in contact

Woodville Halls Theatre, Gravesend

Sunday, May 22, 7.30pm
 01474 337774

MEDIUM to the stars Sally Morgan returns to Gravesend with her national theatre tour. Fresh from her Living TV series Psychic Sally On The Road, Britain's much-loved celebrity psychic returns to entertain the north Kent public. Morgan most notably spoke to the late Princess Diana and continues

to use her psychic skills to help stars as well as members of the public, on and off tour. She claims to have seen her first spirit when she was just four. She quickly realised she was different from her family and friends and spent most of her early life hiding her interests and skills. It took many years before Morgan began to understand how to control of the mysteries of the spirit world and eventually became a professional medium. Note that evenings of mediumship are not scientifically proven and are for entertainment purposes. Tickets cost £23 from www.woodvillehalls.com.



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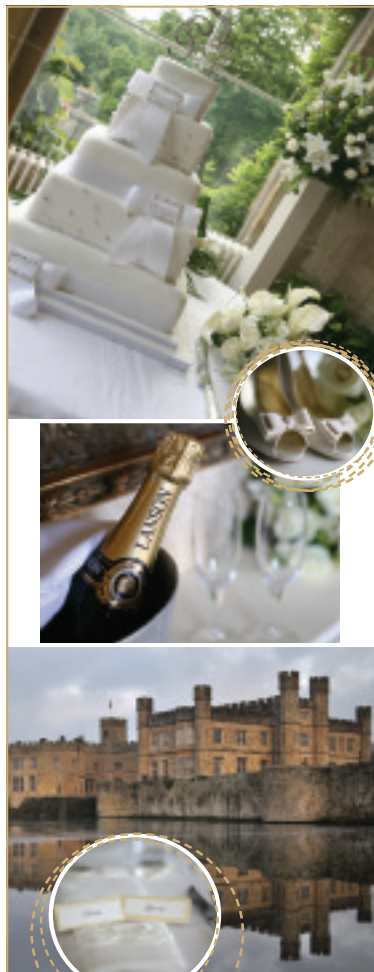
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On both days TV celebrity Claire Sweeney will be hosting two fabulous catwalk shows.

The shows are co-ordinated and professionally choreographed creating the 'wow factor'.



EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

To be included on this page, please email features@kosmedia.co.uk

Rail history Relive the 40s war spirit

Kent & East Sussex Railway
Tenterden
Sat and Sun, May 14-15
www.kesr.org.uk

THE K&ESR is hosting its annual 1940s weekend when visitors of all ages can relive the 40s lifestyle along the line between Tenterden and Bodiam. The historic railway is the ideal location for this event when steam trains, period vehicles, re-enactors and characters in authentic costume will create a nostalgic atmosphere. Visitors can also take advantage of a full steam-train service and enjoy a ride in one of the restored vintage carriages. Highlights of the weekend include an air display by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight on Saturday and singer Fiona Harrison performing 40s songs. For ticket information, call 01580 765155 or visit www.kesr.org.uk.



Ghost tour Feel the chill in the night

Chiddingstone Castle
Friday, May 13
Tel: 01892 872746
www.chiddingstonecastle.org

COME along to Chiddingstone Castle near Edenbridge, if you dare, to experience the castle's first-ever ghost tour. The spooky tours will include ghostly tales about the castle. The event is part of Museums At Night weekend. You will hear about Chiddingstone's history and help a team with its ghost-hunting investigations. Chiddingstone Castle can be traced back

to the early 1500s and has undergone many architectural changes and been owned and lived in by an eclectic mix of families. The early timber-framed Tudor dwelling, inhabited by the Streatfeild family, was replaced and partly transformed into High Street House in the 1670s. The building went through another transformation during the early 1800s when then-owner Henry Streatfeild rebuilt the house to resemble a medieval castle. The children's ghost tour, for youngsters aged eight to 15, will take place between 7pm and 9pm (tickets £8 per child). The adult tours, over-16s only, will be between 10pm and midnight (£12 per person). Places are limited, so call 01892 872746 or visit www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk.

Historic house Tour of Pugin's dream home

The Grange, Ramsgate
Friday to Sunday, May 13-16
01628 825925
bookings@landmarktrust.org

THE Landmark Trust, a building preservation charity, will be opening The Grange in Ramsgate, which was designed by Augustus Pugin. The free open days give people

a chance to explore this Grade I-listed building designed and lived in by the influential and prolific 19th-century architect. Visitors will be able to see the library, where Pugin designed the interiors for the House of Lords, the private chapel and the opulent schemes that were re-created during the building's restoration using fragments found beneath the joinery. Pugin designed The Grange while other architects were planning symmetrical Georgian terraces. He built very few domestic houses, and at The Grange he tried to create the ideal home

for his family. He also began the construction of St Augustine's monastery and parish church next door. The Grange was restored by the Landmark Trust and now has a secure future as self-catering holiday accommodation. It is available for groups of up to eight people to experience living for a few days or weeks. A free information leaflet will be available at the open days explaining the building's history and restoration. For more information, call 01628 825925 or email bookings@landmarktrust.org.



Concert Equator world music festival

Astley House, Maidstone
Saturday, May 21, 7.30pm
www.equatorfestival.com

THE Equator world music festival is welcoming Arab music sensation Attab Haddad. His blend of jazz and flamenco fusion comes from the the Mediterranean and Middle East and creates hypnotic melodies and sensual rhythms. He is a virtuoso of the traditional Arabic lute or oud, to which he has brought a revolutionary new approach. Attab has also collaborated with other artists as co-composer, producer, musician and session player and featured as a guest on albums and on BBC Radio 3. He is a founding member of the flamenco fusion band Alcazaba. He has also worked in film and TV and worked on James Newton Howard's score for Ed Zwick's film, Blood Diamond. His band have just finished recording their debut album. The concert is at Kent Music, Astley House at 7.30pm. Tickets: adults £8, concessions £5, students £3 (buy them at Maidstone Tourist Information, or visit www.equatorfestival.com).

BOOKING NOW FOR SPRING SEASON SHOWS



HOW TO BE A HERO **FAMILY**
Sun 8th May 3pm
£5
Family Ticket £21 up to 6 people
Must be Family Member (£10 per year)



GREASE **MUSICAL**
Wed 11-Sat 14th May 7.30pm
£10
Group discounts for 15 or more
The students at Rydell High have to deal with love, gang violence, teen pregnancy and friendship.



DIE FLEDERMAUS **OPERA**
Sun 15th May 7.30pm
£16/£14 Friends £12

SMOKE AND MIRRORS
Sat 28th & Sun 29th May 7.30pm
£12/£10 Friends

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www.theatreroyalmargate.com

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SUN 15th MAY
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£16/£14
Friends £12

Theatre Royal Margate

Die Fledermaus is surely one of the world's most famous operettas, and it now gets a glittering new look by the country's best small-scale operetta company.

Opera della Luna have earned themselves a matchless reputation, touring the country for over ten years with acclaimed productions of Gilbert and Sullivan and Offenbach, and they now turn their hand to the "waltz king": Johann Strauss, and this most sparkling of scores.

This entirely new, saucy, production is directed and designed by the team that created the company's recent wonderful production of The Mikado.



DRAW ME A BIRD

SUN 12th JUNE
3pm
£5
£21 Family member ticket for up to 6 people

A brand new dance-music theatre piece for children and their grown-ups about a little bird in a big city.



STAGE & ARTS

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk

Shakespeare's Globe Hamlet

Groombridge Place

Tue to Thu, May 24-26
020 74019919
www.shakespearesglobe.com

SHAKESPEARE'S Globe is taking to the road again with Shakespeare's intellectual masterpiece Hamlet. Directed by Globe artistic director Dominic Dromgoole, rising star Joshua McGuire takes the title role. McGuire appeared in Posh at the Royal Court in 2010 and co-starred in new BBC series The Hour with Ben Whishaw and Dominic West. Dromgoole has directed on a number of productions using an Elizabethan-style booth stage – inspired by paintings and etchings from Shakespeare's time and a troupe of eight actors. Tour destinations include Bodleian Library Quadrangle in Oxford, The Minack in Cornwall and, of course Groombridge Place Gardens. Tickets £17.50.



Guitar duo Jamming session

Lighthouse Bar, Margate

Sunday, May 8
For more information, email
beachkeys@aol.com

GUITAR duo Jamie Moore and Dave Reay will be heading to the Thanet coast for a classic jamming session. Jamie Moore is a versatile musician and composer who moves with ease from the structures of classical music to jazz. Although born in Canada, Moore lives in the UK. His long career has included playing in clubs and theatres as well as TV shows and films. As a result, he has developed a composing and playing style that combines the freedom of a jazz session through improvisation with the form and structure of a classical music. Moore has all the style and presence of a seasoned stage performer. His musical partner, Dave Reay, with his virtuosity and versatility, has been already described as "sheer damn class" by sections of the music press. The Lighthouse Bar on the Harbour Arm should make for a relaxed and scenic setting for two very talented musicians. Go on, give it a try.

Heads South Latin salsa and jazz

Tower Theatre

Folkstone Jazz Club
Thursday, May 12, 8.30pm
Phone 01303 277175

DESCRIBED as the best Latin salsa band in the country, Heads South will be doing just that as they look to delight audiences in Kent. Their music combines great rhythm and

great melody in a repertoire of original compositions and arrangements of well-loved and well-known tunes. Both the keen concert-hall listener and the full-on dancefloor mover will be able to relax and enjoy the Latino soundtrack. The band's five-piece line-up is led by pianist/composer John Harriman and features the outstanding Steve Waterman, professor of jazz trumpet at the Royal Academy of Music and Trinity College. Also on board are Cuban percussionist Chino Martell Morgan, the versatile Buster

Birch on drums and New Zealander Tim Robertson on bass guitar. This is a new line-up of musicians drawn from diverse sounds and cultures. It encompasses memorable new tunes such as El Cardenal, Juntito and Sweet Swan to new arrangements of classics such as Besame Mucho and Mack The Knife. Think Buena Vista Social Club and add the excitement of jazz, great new melody, the warmth of a Latin evening and grooving away into the night. Tickets for what should be a fantastic event cost £8.



Exhibition Local artist Michael Blake

Harbour Arm, Margate

Until Sunday, May 15
www.margateharbourarm.co.uk or 01843 260260

KENT artist Michael Blake has his latest exhibition at the Harbour Arm Gallery in Margate. Born in Cheshire in 1951, Blake trained at Jacob Kramer College, Leeds, and at Canterbury College of Art, where he was taught by Geoffrey Rigden, Ian Dury and Thomas Watt. The artist himself has taught in Canterbury, Dublin and at the summer and postgraduate schools at Cyprus College



Art. He currently works from a studio near his home in Wickhambreaux. Critic Francis Spalding has said of his work: "Blake's canvasses exploit colours to suggest mood. Every shift of hue tells – nothing is added for the sake of effect."



Big band Swing with Sinatra & Co

Granville Theatre, Ramsgate

Sunday, July 2, 7.30pm
Tickets £12; 01843 591750 or
www.granvilletheatre.com

THE big-band sound is coming to Ramsgate this summer with the Swing'n'Sinatra show making an appearance at the Granville Theatre. Simone Smith and her husband Chris feature in the show, which boasts a host of classic big-

band and swing songs from artists such as Frank Sinatra and Glenn Miller through to Jools Holland-style jazz. Chris said: "I've been brought up with this style of music as my father played trombone for Frank Sinatra on his European tours. It's great that there's a strong resurgence in jazz and swing music enjoyed by all generations. "We're looking forward to bringing the show back to town." Simone, who sings and plays lead alto saxophone, has also played with such artists as Paul Weller, John Williams and Ivy Benson.

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BOOK REVIEWS



The Troubled Man

Henning Mankell
£17.99, Harveill Secker

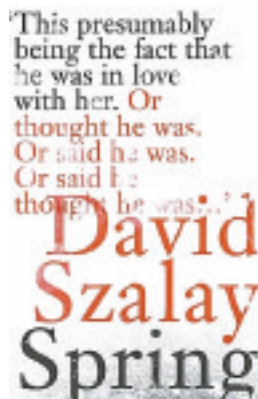
HENNING Mankell is known for the creation of Swedish detective Wallander and has written more than 10 novels featuring the lugubrious hero.

The Troubled Man is reportedly Wallander's swansong and follows the detective as he tries to unravel the disappearance of his daughter's future in-laws.

It takes him on a journey into Sweden's naval history, with a particular focus on incidents from the Cold War.

All the while, Wallander battles with the physical and mental obstacles presented by old age and tries to get to grips with the world growing younger around him.

The sleuthing work keeps the book interesting, while Wallander's inner battle provides a compelling sub-plot that becomes more prevalent as the novel progresses.



Spring

David Szalay
£16.99, Jonathan Cape

IT IS unsettling the way that David Szalay seems to utterly inhabit his characters in Spring, which is told through multiple points of view, with the same events seen anew by a different set of eyes.

James was a someone in

the internet boom, but after the bust he fears he is no one, turning to everything from being an estate agent to a racehorse-owner.

He is a 30-something man who has lost it all on a number of occasions and his latest get-rich-quick scheme involves a horse-racing scam.

So when he encounters Katherine, a woman recently separated, things are not going to be smooth.

Meeting Katherine at a wedding, the two begin the awkward dance of a new relationship. We zigzag through time as Szalay takes us through the seemingly mundane middle-class lives of the pair, as well as friends and relatives, at the beginning of one spring in London.

The nuances of their emotions, or at times lack of emotion, are handled with an expert, but light, touch in this absorbing read.



Anatomy Of A Disappearance

Hisham Matar
£16.99, Viking

HISHAM Matar's first novel, In The Country Of Men, was short-listed for the 2006 Booker Prize.

Anatomy follows this semi-autobiographical ground with both the author and his narrator, Nuri, suffering the pain of their father being abducted by Egyptian secret agents, never to be seen again.

Nuri lives in 70s Cairo with his father, a former Libyan government minister. His mother died when he was eight, and six years later both father and son fall in love with Mona, a beautiful 24-year-old English girl.

The family are to spend Christmas in Switzerland when Nuri's father is kidnapped.

Nuri initially enjoys being alone with Mona, but as they discover more about his father, his world is shattered.

This is a beautifully-written book, full of strong characters. Matar's style is economic yet provides pathos and depth.



And On Piano... Nicky Hopkins

Julian Dawson
£24.95, Desert Hearts

IN this biography, musician Julian Dawson looks back on Nicky Hopkins's impressive 35-year career as a musician, song-writer, singer and producer.

The work is subtitled 'The Extraordinary Life Of Rock's Greatest Session Musician', which certainly does not overstate the case.

Session pianist Hopkins appeared with so many artists during his life that a complete discography is probably impossible, but a list of his better-known clients includes The Beatles both together and individually, The Rolling Stones, The Who, The Kinks, David Bowie, Steve Miller, Jefferson Airplane, Quicksilver Messenger Service, Van Morrison, Rod Stewart, Donovan, The Jeff Beck Group, Harry Nilsson, Joe Cocker, The Yardbirds, Alexis Korner, Ella Fitzgerald, The Easybeats... the list goes on.

He even played with the Bay City Rollers – and the author.

Dawson, who was brought up in Tunbridge Wells, said: "This really was a labour of love – it was a story I really felt should be told.

"When you see the amount of classic songs that Nicky contributed to, you realise how important he was to music.

"All the people I spoke to were very complimentary about both him and his work.

"Pete Townshend sent me a series of eloquent emails and Keith Richards rang me at midnight when I was in Frankfurt from his home in Connecticut. He then said he had to go and he'd ring back in an hour – which he did.

"When I needed inspiration for this project, which I started 13 years ago, I turned to Nicky's music – particularly an eight-minute track he did with the Steve Miller Band called Baby's House."

MUSIC

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Hop Farm Carl Barat joins line-up

Hop Farm, Paddock Wood
Friday, July 1 and July 2
020 7644 1445
www.hopfarmfestival.com
Ticket prices vary

LEGENDARY Libertines frontman Carl Barat is the final big name to be added to the Hop Farm Festival band list. Best known for his time with the cult band that also featured Pete Doherty, Barat will join a plethora of big names coming to Kent for the music festival.

The fourth year of the event also sees Morrissey, Human League, Lou Reed, Graham Coxon and Ocean Colour Scene take to the stage. Festival boss Vince Power said: "I'm very pleased to announce the final acts of the festival. This year's line-up once again shows that there is something for everyone and that the Hop Farm is a festival all can enjoy."

Fans at this year's event will also see legends like The Eagles paired with former Killers frontman Brandon Flowers. Maintaining its no-branding, no-sponsorship ethos, the festival sticks to programming legendary acts alongside the contemporary.



MJ tribute Jackson Live In Concert

Central Theatre, Chatham
Friday, May 13, 7.30pm
Tickets £16.50-£18
01634 338 338

JACKSON Live In Concert is the ultimate Michael Jackson tribute show, featuring the songs, the fabulous costumes and, of course, the dance moves. MJ is remembered

fondly in his many incarnations as one of the most profoundly influential artists of all time. His career spanned almost five decades of music and he was at the forefront of popular music, being crowned the king of pop. Jackson Live In Concert sees long-time fan Amir Sharmar faithfully re-create the Michael Jackson experience. An accomplished vocalist and dancer, Sharmar performs Thriller, Billy Jean, Beat It and a whole host of other Michael Jackson tracks, complete with dance moves and full backing band.

Music festival X-Factor's Ben and Stacey

Music on the Hill, Kings Hill
Friday to Sunday, June 24-26
0844 873 7339
www.musiconthehill.org.uk

QUEEN of the jungle and X-Factor star Stacey Solomon has been announced as the guest host for charity festival Music on the Hill. The event, which will also host boy-band McFly and classical singer Katherine Jenkins, will raise cash for the Demelza Hospice Care For Children charity. The three-day festival also features ABBA tribute act Bjorn Again and Kent's own X-Factor star Ben Mills. Ticket prices for each day vary.



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SHOPPING

Home exteriors and interiors

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With the summer coming, how about the chance to eat outside at lunchtime or during the long evenings? This arrangement is from Next: Vintage table and chairs £250, plant stand £35, parasol base £25, spot parasol £35, tea light holders £12 (set of 3), butterfly garden stake £10, pitcher £8, bowls £4.50 (set of 4), plates £4.50 (set of 4), cutlery £3 (set of 12), wine glasses £4.50 (set of 4), cupcake stand £12
www.next.co.uk

Home interiors and exteriors can make your place to live the envy of all who visit. Whether it's a large new piece of furniture which becomes the focal point of a room, or that extremely original and personal piece of decor that becomes a talking point, here is a range of ideas to brighten up the house. And with the hot weather on its way, how about a spot of alfresco dining?



Clock
This clock will brighten up any room
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www.woolworths.co.uk



Poppy field wall decoration
Bring a piece of the countryside into the home
£30
www.woolworths.co.uk



A Union Jack pillow
This will be a talking point in any home
£30
www.accessorize.co.uk



Money box
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£14.99
www.giftshop.bhf.org.uk



A tea cup and place set
By House of Fraser, these will grace any table
£25
www.hof.co.uk



Plum-coloured table lamp
This lamp will brighten up any room
£50
www.wilkinsonplus.com



Chair
This stylish chair from Next is the perfect piece of furniture to aid your relaxation
£399
www.next.co.uk



Chaise lounge and storage box
From House of Bath, these would be a practical and stylish addition to any room
£299.95 and £70.95
www.houseofbath.co.uk

HOMES

Find some extra space in your home without the inconvenience of having to bring in the builders or moving out when you install a new summerhouse

AS the family grows and our possessions increase, we all strive to make the best of the space we have with clever storage solutions.

But unless you're lucky enough to already have all the living space you need, there will undoubtedly come a time when you need to consider upsizing.

However, this needn't mean a costly extension or stressful move – a garden building could be the answer to your prayers.

Forest, the UK's leading garden timber company, has a new range of log cabins and summerhouses in a range of sizes and prices to suit most budgets and requirements, so removing the need to uproot the entire family or turn your house upside down for months on end.

Forest has added five new summerhouses to its collection. Made from 12mm shiplap, with rounded finishes, as well as stylish window and door furniture and styrene-glazed windows and doors, each design is finished with dip-treated, factory-applied preservative.

The Loxley Summerhouse offers a simple apex design, with double doors and two fully-glazed windows at £899. Size 2m x 2m x 1m.

The Aurora Summerhouse is available in two sizes and has a contemporary design with sweeping curved roof, double doors and large rectangular windows. (Large 2m x 2m x 1m, £1,499 and small 2m x 2m x 3m, £1,099).

The Larkwood Cottage Summerhouse is a larger option where space is at a premium. Offering an integral veranda and spacious interior, the striking roof design is accentuated by stylish felt shingles. It is available from £1,599. (Large 2 x 3 x 3m £1,899 and small 2 x 2 x 3m £1,599).

The collection also includes the Northcote Summerhouse at £1,099, featuring an integral veranda, and the Ashcombe Summerhouse (£1,299) with slanted roof and double doors.

New for 2011, Forest has introduced a range of beautifully-designed timber log cabins to add to its garden buildings collection.

If you're looking for an office space, craft workshop or study, a playroom for the children, gym space or even a spare bedroom for visitors or an entertainment room, each of the premium log cabins have been designed as an answer to all your space issues.

From £1,249 to £7,999 with sizes varying from 2.2m x 2.2m to 5m x 5m, there is a log cabin to suit any need. The range offers a choice of building shapes and designs, from traditional to contemporary to suit all tastes.

All Forest log cabins offer pressure-treated floor-bearers and wall logs machined from kiln-dried timber, which comes from slow-grown Nordic spruce forested from sustainable sources.

The range is available in 28mm-44mm log thickness and incorporates hand-finished tilt-and-turn windows, offering a mix of single- and double-glazing, depending on the log thickness.

■ Forest's products can be bought across the country, including at Notcutts in Pembury and Bearsted, Brookside Nursery in East Peckham, Alsford Timber in Sheerness and Tonbridge and the Alkham Valley Garden Centre near Dover.



■ The Harwood, pictured top and above right, £1,549, shows just how spacious a summerhouse can be



■ Clockwise from bottom right: the Buxton (£2,599), Wenlock (£2,249) and Malvern (£2,449) are among the many designs from which to choose

Summerhouses

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■ There's plenty of space for you to relax in the Buxton, above, which starts at £2,599... or, right, the Bredon, which is priced at £3,049



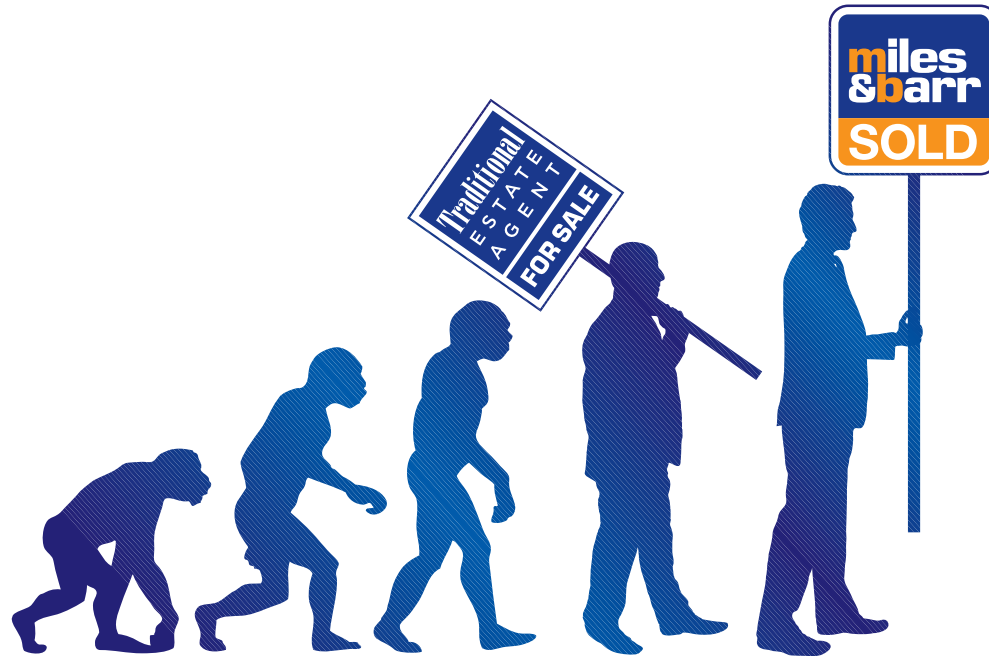
■ The Loxely is for those on a tighter budget. Priced at just £899, there is still plenty of space for storage in this room outside your home

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A ROYAL TREAT: Ramsgate boasts the country's only royal harbour – it is also one of the loveliest

Robust interest in maritime gem

RAMSGATE is a coastal town going through a period of transition. The Thanet resort is famed for its fishing and tourism charms, with the only royal harbour in the UK, a thriving marina and the Port of Ramsgate attracting a constant flow of visitors.

Like its near-neighbour Margate, Ramsgate has suffered from decades of gradual decline, hitting property prices across the town.

However, improved rail links have already helped to attract much-needed investment, which is changing Ramsgate's landscape and prospects.

With ever-increasing numbers of commuters looking to move to Ramsgate, housing developments have sprung up across the town and new businesses have set up near the harbour.

The town itself offers some wonderful Georgian and Victorian architecture, which is a magnet for London buyers.

The improvements in the rail network mean that the town is becoming more accessible

for tourists and also more convenient for commuters.

The Ramsgate property market has fared better than many during the financial downturn and this is primarily the result of the appeal of the town and the recent investment.

The seafront and harbour area is particularly popular, with its eclectic array of bars and restaurants enjoying stunning views over the royal harbour.

The proposed Royal Sands development nearby is scheduled to take advantage of the panoramic views and it is rumoured that celebrities from the sporting world such as Chelsea footballing superstars John Terry and Ashley Cole have visited with a view to getting on the waiting list.

Graham Kinnear, managing director at local agency Milton Ashbury, is convinced that the Ramsgate market is set to improve yet further.

He said: "The sales data

certainly show that the market has bottomed and is now moving upwards. We are seeing robust interest from out-of-town buyers and renewed interest in buy-to-let in the town"



PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT ON RAMSGATE

What makes it special?

RAMSGATE'S heart is its harbour, which remains the only royal harbour in the UK. The east Kent town's sea links are strong, with a thriving marina and port. Neighbouring Margate suffered a post-tourism slump, and while Ramsgate experienced some decline, it wasn't as severe and accordingly it found it easier to move on to a new period of prosperity.

Room to improve

DESPITE the recent introduction of the high-speed rail link, it still takes too long to reach the capital from Ramsgate. Keeping with the transport theme, a long-promised passenger ferry service to France has failed to materialise. Parts of the town, noticeably near the high street, are badly run down and in need of genuine regeneration.

Prices

PROPERTY prices in the middle of Ramsgate vary drastically dependent on number of bedrooms and proximity to the sea. A five-bedroom house in Nelson Crescent is currently up for sale for £565,000, while a similar-sized property in Vale Square is on offer at the same price. At the other end of the scale, one-bed flats can be snapped up from as little as £59,000; however, these are further inland.

The rental market follows the same trend, with rooms available in larger buildings for upwards of £200 per week, down to one-bedroom flats on offer for as little as £80 per week.

Shops

RAMSGATE has a number of small high-street shops, but retail is an area where it must seek to improve in the coming years. While the scope of shops is unimpressive,



Ramsgate does enjoy an array of top eateries, particularly near the harbour.

Schools

THE town's grammar schools both notched up excellent GCSE exam results in the last academic year. Clarendon House Grammar School students secured a 100 per cent pass mark against the Government's five passes at A*-C grade, while Chatham House was not far off perfection with 97 per cent. Clarendon scored an impressive 99 per cent in the five passes at A*-C (including English and maths), while Chatham House posted 92.4 per cent.

The nearest college is Thanet College, in Broadstairs, which is also home to a Canterbury Christ Church University campus.

Connections

THE main road linking Ramsgate to the heart of the county is the A299 Thanet Way, which joins the M2/A2. Motorists can reach the M25 from Ramsgate in a little over an hour. The coastal A256 takes drivers down to Dover and onwards to the A20 for the Channel Tunnel. A passenger ferry service runs six times a day from the Port of Ramsgate to Ostende, Belgium.

What's on

MARITIME fans can take a look at Ramsgate harbour and the east Kent coastline's development through the ages at Ramsgate Maritime Museum. Sports fans can watch Ramsgate football club at the Southwood Stadium or Thanet Wanderers rugby club at St Peters. The harbour also plays host to an annual powerboat grand prix every summer as well as the wind-powered international sailing regatta – Ramsgate Week – usually held in August. Film fans can catch the latest Hollywood blockbusters at the Granville Cinema, in Victoria Parade.

Around and about

RAMSGATE'S nearest neighbours are Margate and Broadstairs. Margate has been buoyed by the £14 million Turner Contemporary gallery, which opened last month. The town still retains its seaside charm, which saw it prosper in the 1970s and 80s, including arcades and a sweeping promenade. Broadstairs offers a more relaxing experience, although the popular Folk Week is not to be missed.

Golfers can enjoy a range of excellent courses, such as North Foreland at Broadstairs and, of course, Royal St George's at Sandwich.



NEXT WEEK: PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT FOCUSES ON TENTERDEN

Coastal homes to rent or buy we've got it all online



Picture by Paul Jerreat:
Ramsgate Harbour

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HOMES

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£169,950

Chapel Cottage

A BEAUTIFULLY refurbished two-bedroom detached Grade II-listed home close to town but in a secluded location. It has two reception rooms and separate kitchen with a hidden cellar and access out to the walled patio garden. The upstairs consists of two double bedrooms, the master with an en-suite shower, and then a family bathroom. It is tastefully decorated throughout with dado rails and large sash windows and feature fireplaces. The main reception includes a cast-iron wood-burner and stripped-wood flooring. The kitchen plays home to a range of wall and base units, rolled-edge work surface, stainless-steel sink unit with mixer tap and drainer, space for a fridge, washing machine, electric oven and gas four-ring hob with extractor. The rear courtyard garden houses raised brick flower borders, a water feature and toilet.

AGENT: Milton Ashbury
01843 225533



Large family rooms and near town

£240,000

North Avenue

IF your ideal family home is the sort of property that is brimming with charm and character, has large family rooms and is still within a short distance of the town and harbour, then this could be just the property for you. The lounge boasts a beautiful open fireplace and surround, while there is space for a family room just off the kitchen area.

Agent: Ward and Partners
01843 580314

Refurbished two-bedroom home boasts a hidden cellar



Carved Greek key symbols and servants' bells

£480,000

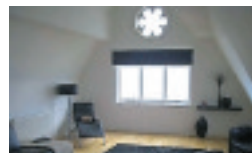
Paragon

IT is a rare treat to find a house with so many original features, in such a great location and in such good condition throughout. The owners have taken great care

to maintain the house, while embracing modern living. The many treasures start before you have even set foot in the building. The front door has hand-carved Greek key symbols, a theme which runs throughout the original internal doors and fireplace in the master bedroom. The ground floor has two curved

solid-wood doors and the bay windows at the front are possibly the only original ones with curved glass remaining in Paragon. The servants' bells in the lounge, kitchen and top floor are in working order, so there's no need to shout upstairs that dinner is ready!

AGENT: Ward and Partners
01843 580314



Two-bedroom apartment with sea view

£195,000

Granville Court

WITH unparalleled sea views and vaulted ceiling, the open space in this penthouse apartment in Victoria Parade incorporates a stylish kitchen opening to dining and living areas. This two-bedroom property, in good decorative order, includes an en-suite bathroom off the master bedroom and a reception with Juliet balcony, which looks out on to the seafront. The kitchen includes wall and base units with granite-effect worksurfaces, oven, hob and hood, space for a fridge-freezer, an integrated washing machine and a dishwasher.

AGENT: Milton Ashbury
01843 583388



Grade II-listed four-bed home

£350,000

Clifton Lawn

MOVE straight in and put your feet up. The owners have renovated the property throughout during the last six years, so you can now enjoy a Grade II-listed house without any concerns over having to carry out urgent repairs. The house lends itself to family

life. On the lower ground floor you will find a large open-plan kitchen and family room and on the ground floor are two further reception rooms, so there is plenty of room for all the family to relax. Four large bedrooms arranged over the first and second floors in this property, situated in a historical area, with Pugin's Grange opposite.

AGENT: Ward and Partners
01843 580314

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Wellington Crescent

THIS newly-refurbished groundfloor one-bedroom apartment in Wellington Crescent offers a sea view. Internally in lovely decorative order, this home comprises a lounge with a modern fitted kitchen incorporated, a new

bathroom – a white suite with mains shower over the bath – separate toilet and bedroom. There are wooden floors throughout and gas central heating. With an entry-phone system and finished to a high standard, an internal viewing is highly recommended. The harbour and Ramsgate marina are right on the doorstep.

AGENT: Milton Ashbury
01843 583388



One-bed with en-suite shower room

£425pcm

Hibernia Street

THIS beautiful converted one-bedroom apartment features

stunning wooden floors, gas central heating and double-glazing. The en-suite shower room makes this property stand out against other similar-sized apartments in its price range. It is in excellent

decorative order throughout and ideally situated just a few minutes' walk away from both Ramsgate town centre and the marina.

AGENT: Milton Ashbury
01843 583388



Two-bedroom split-level maisonette

£520pcm

Alma Road

THIS two-double-bedroom split-level maisonette has its own private entrance. The property boasts a large lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom and large loft room. Its spacious rooms and layout make it stand out above other properties in the same price range and location. There is gas central heating and double-glazing throughout. The property is in the middle of town, just a few minutes' walk from Ellington Park. DSS top-up considered.

AGENT: Miles & Barr
01843 808589



Private patios from both bedrooms

£750pcm

St Augustine's Road

THIS two-bedroom unfurnished property is in the

newly-converted Regency Building. The stunning apartment benefits from integral appliances in the kitchen, jacuzzi bath in the bathroom and access to a private patio from both

bedrooms. It is in excellent decorative order throughout. Stunning views of Port of Ramsgate. Minutes away from Ramsgate town centre.

AGENT: Milton Ashbury
01843 583388



Second-floor spacious flat

£325pcm

King Street

ONE-BEDROOM unfurnished second-floor flat situated within a short walking distance of Ramsgate town and seafront, benefiting from entry phone and fitted kitchen. The property consists of a spacious lounge, bathroom with three-piece bathroom suite and fitted kitchen with space for appliances. Ideally located and on offer at a fantastic low rental price that sets it apart from similar Ramsgate town-centre apartments. Finished to a high standard.

AGENT: Belmonte
01843 808584



In heart of the town

£465pcm

Hardres Street

A SMART and particularly well-presented basement flat in the heart of Ramsgate town centre. Its prime location makes it stand out from

similar properties on the rental market. It has a large lounge and bedroom and is finished to a high standard. Having been the subject of considerable refurbishment, the property is worthy of an early internal inspection.

AGENT: Your Move
01843 808643

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Subaru's new Forester gets the job done but looks better doing it

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Forester growing strong

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SUBARU could argue that it created the current crossover sector with its original Forester, which arrived in the UK in 1997.

While the newcomer stuck rigidly to established Subaru principles – horizontally-opposed engine and all-wheel drive – the Forester was more high-riding estate car than serious off-roader.

For some buyers, though, this was a big plus since the Forester's low centre of gravity made it less prone to rolling if taken over undulating terrain. It was also an impressive 4x4 holdall for those who wanted practicality and extra grip.

That it didn't take the market by storm like the Nissan Qashqai did a decade later, is probably more due to the fact that Subaru was not then able to offer a diesel option.

But now into its third generation – launched 2008 – the Forester has that capability in the form of a punchy, economical all-new flat-four diesel produced in house by Subaru and representing one of the Japanese marque's most crucial commercial decisions of recent decades.

And as we have found in other models, fitted with this 'boxer' diesel – still unique in the marketplace – it has created a flexible, refined and economical powertrain that also averages around 45mpg in 147bhp diesel Forester models (from £23,070).

This renders the cheaper 150bhp 2.0-litre petrol alternative (from £21,370) fairly pointless with its inferior acceleration and fuel economy – it averages around 10mpg less than the diesel.

The Forester is as practical as ever yet sharper looking than before. The driving position is excellent, with a good high-up view out, aided by lots of glass and little intrusion from the pillars, while boot space is above average for the class.

SUBARU FORESTER XS NAVPLUS PRICE £29,070

FACT FILE



Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★
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RUGGED: The Subaru Forester has sacrificed some on-road sharpness to cope with more trying conditions

The interior remains typical Subaru though, erring on the side of durability and ergonomics rather than flair.

And that fits well with the Forester tradition; the old straight-laced estate body may have been ditched in favour of a more contemporary off-roader/crossover look, but you still get the feeling that this car will deliver genuinely rugged performance when the chips are down, or rather, the snow is all around.

There is also decent ground clearance and it may be that the Forester has sacrificed some on-road sharpness in order to cope better with rougher conditions.

Of course, it hugs the bends well enough, but light steering and pliant suspension to cope with bumpy surfaces and easy manoeuvring mean it can't be a poor man's Range Rover Sport, ie a 4x4 car for hard road driving.

Not that too many would be rural-based buyers will worry about that; rather than the rather less rugged appeal of the Qashqai and

crossover wannabes, they want a car like the Forester to help them cope with the sort of hard winters we've had lately according to Kent's newest Subaru dealer, Canterbury Subaru.

Dealer principal, Kevin Ferrell, said: "The demographics for the rural east Kent area are right for the 4x4 dependability of the Subaru line-up, especially the rugged Outback and Forester models – some of the farmers around here will have fond memories of the little pick-up trucks that made the brand popular in the UK in the 80s.

"The CT post code area contains a lot of families who enjoy a rural lifestyle and country pursuits, go to horse shows and so on."

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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



Peugeot deal to fuel sales

PEUGEOT has come up with a unique tonic for the spiralling cost of motoring. 'Just Add Fuel' is a new car ownership package which fixes all the major costs of running a car for three years – except the fuel. Customers buy or lease for a fixed monthly amount that includes comprehensive insurance, warranty, servicing, breakdown cover and road tax.



There's more to MiTo range

ALFA Romeo has revised its MiTo sporting supermini range, with lower entry prices but higher standard specifications, plus a new road tax-busting sub 100g/km CO2 version. Prices for the car, named after Milan and Turin, now start at £12,250 for the entry level 1.4 8v Progression, to £17,955 for the 1.4 TB MultiAir 170bhp Quadrifoglio Verde.



Lucky Seven's special edition

THE Dartford production plant for Caterham Cars is building a limited run of 25 Team Lotus Special Edition Caterham Sevens to celebrate the company's acquisition by Team Lotus. The cars mark the reunion of the Lotus race team with the historic Seven sports car, the rights to which were bought from Lotus founder Colin Chapman in 1973.

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2010 (10) FORD FUSION ZETEC SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1800 miles.....	£9,995
2008 (08) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles.....	£7,995
2008 (08) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, SEA GREY, 3000 miles.....	£7,995
2009 (09) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 1800 miles.....	£7,495
2008 (08) FORD FUSION ZETEC CLIMATE SDR HATCH AUTO, OCEAN BLUE, 20000 miles.....	£5,995

CITROEN	
2009 (59) CITROEN CX EXCLUSIVE 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 350 miles.....	£8,995
2008 (58) CITROEN CX EXCLUSIVE 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles.....	£7,995
2006 (60) CITROEN XSARA PICASSO DESIRE 16V ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 40000 miles.....	£5,495

CORSA	
2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV AC SDR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles.....	£9,495
2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 4000 miles.....	£7,995
2009 (59) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 750 miles.....	£7,995
2005 (64) TOYOTA YARIS VERSO T SPRIIT VVT4 MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles.....	£7,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles.....	£7,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles.....	£7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, LANCELOT GOLD, 5000 miles.....	£6,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles.....	£6,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles.....	£6,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 12000 miles.....	£6,995

MAZDA	
2008 (58) MAZDA 3 3 TAKARA SDR HATCH AUTO, RED, 5000 miles.....	£9,995
2008 (08) MAZDA 3 3 TS2 SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles.....	£8,995
2006 (56) MAZDA 6 6 TS SDR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 21000 miles.....	£6,995
2007 (57) MAZDA 2 2 CAPELLA SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles.....	£6,495
2007 (56) MAZDA 2 2 S SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles.....	£5,495

SUZUKI	
2009 (59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 450 miles.....	£9,495
2009 (59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles.....	£9,495
2007 (57) SUZUKI SX GLX SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles.....	£7,495

TOYOTA	
2006 (56) TOYOTA RAK4 X4 VTA ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 35000 miles.....	£13,995
2010 (60) TOYOTA YARIS TR VTA SENSORDRIVE HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 960 miles.....	£10,995
2010 (10) TOYOTA IQ VTA IQ 3DR HATCH AUTO, PURPLE, 6000 miles.....	£9,495
2007 (57) TOYOTA AURIS T SPRIIT VVT4 MM SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles.....	£8,995
2005 (64) TOYOTA YARIS T SPRIIT VVT4 MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles.....	£7,495
2005 (05) TOYOTA YARIS T SPRIIT VVT4 SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles.....	£6,995
2005 (05) TOYOTA YARIS T SPRIIT VVT4 SDR HATCH AUTO, CRYSTAL SILVER, 5000 miles.....	£6,995
2007 (57) TOYOTA AYGO BLACK VVT4 MM SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 20000 miles.....	£5,995
2005 (05) TOYOTA YARIS T SPRIIT VVT4 SDR HATCH AUTO, CARLO BLUE, 5000 miles.....	£5,995
2003 (03) TOYOTA YARIS CX VTA SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 4500 miles.....	£4,995

NISSAN	
2010 (10) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA SDR HATCH AUTO, BLADE SILVER, 10000 miles.....	£19,995
2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles.....	£17,995
2010 (10) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, CAYMAN BLUE, 5000 miles.....	£16,995
2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, FRED IRON, 7000 miles.....	£15,995
2008 (08) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA SDR HATCH, FADED DENIM, 18000 miles.....	£15,995
2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, CAYMAN BLUE, 5000 miles.....	£15,995
2008 (08) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, DENIM, BLUE, 10000 miles.....	£14,995
2007 (57) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 14000 miles.....	£13,995
2010 (60) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 300 miles.....	£11,995
2007 (07) NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA SDR HATCH AUTO, BLADE SILVER, 4000 miles.....	£11,995
2010 (60) NISSAN CUBE KAZEN SDR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 3000 miles.....	£11,995
2010 (10) NISSAN MICRA N-TEC SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles.....	£9,995
2009 (59) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, INTENSE BLUE, 6000 miles.....	£9,995
2010 (59) NISSAN NOTE N-TEC MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 5000 miles.....	£9,995
2009 (09) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles.....	£9,995
2009 (09) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles.....	£9,995
2008 (08) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, CAYMAN BLUE, 10000 miles.....	£7,995
2008 (08) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles.....	£7,995
2010 (60) NISSAN PRIO N-TEC SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 999 miles.....	£7,995
2008 (08) NISSAN NOTE ACENTA MPV AUTO, ORANGE, 21000 miles.....	£6,995
2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles.....	£6,995
2008 (57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles.....	£6,995
2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles.....	£6,995
2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA SDR HATCH AUTO, RED, 1800 miles.....	£6,995
2006 (56) NISSAN MICRA INITIA SDR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles.....	£5,995
2006 (56) NISSAN NOTE SE MPV AUTO, ORANGE, 21000 miles.....	£5,995
2005 (05) NISSAN MICRA SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles.....	£5,495
2006 (56) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles.....	£5,495
2005 (05) NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 5000 miles.....	£4,995
2004 (54) NISSAN ALMERA TINO S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles.....	£4,995
2004 (54) NISSAN ALMERA SE SDR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 9000 miles.....	£4,995
2005 (05) NISSAN ALMERA SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 39000 miles.....	£4,995
2005 (05) NISSAN ALMERA S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles.....	£4,995
2004 (54) NISSAN ALMERA SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 32000 miles.....	£4,695

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2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, PANACOTTA, 15000 miles.....	£9,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles.....	£9,495
2009 (59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, TECHNICAL GREY, 3000 miles.....	£9,495
2009 (09) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING, 14000 miles.....	£9,995
2009 (59) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC SDR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 2000 miles.....	£8,995
2009 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles.....	£8,495
2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles.....	£8,495
2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 11000 miles.....	£7,495
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 20000 miles.....	£6,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, PANACOTTA, 14000 miles.....	£6,495
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles.....	£5,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, PANACOTTA, 17000 miles.....	£5,995
2008 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 16000 miles.....	£5,995
2007 (07) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 3000 miles.....	£5,995

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2010 (60) VAUXHALL ASTRA SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles.....	£14,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA SRI SDR HATCH AUTO, STAR SILVER, 1900 miles.....	£13,995

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2009 (09) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles.....	£7,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles.....	£7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles.....	£6,995
2006 (56) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, PANACOTTA, 18000 miles.....	£6,495
2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles.....	£6,495
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2008 (58) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, GOLD, 3000 miles.....	£8,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA CLUB 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles.....	£8,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, TURQUOISE, 13000 miles.....	£7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, CLUMUNKY SILVER, 14000 miles.....	£7,995
2008 (57) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, SILVER, 7000 miles.....	£6,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 16000 miles.....	£6,995
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DEPOSIT/PART EXCHANGE	£300
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CREDIT	£2699
PURCHASE FEE (INC IN PAYMENTS BELOW)	£10
CREDIT FACILITY FEE (INC IN PAYMENTS BELOW)	£310
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	£4050.70
INITIAL PAYMENT	£170
34 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	£98.02
FINAL PAYMENT	£248.02
DURATION OF AGREEMENT	36 MONTHS
FIXED RATE	15.8%
REPRESENTATIVE APR	24.9%

07/07 FORD FIESTA 1.4 STYLE
(CLIMATE) 5DR

49167 MILES



£5699

CASH PRICE	£5699
DEPOSIT/PART EXCHANGE	£600
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CREDIT	£5099
PURCHASE FEE (INC IN PAYMENTS BELOW)	£10
CREDIT FACILITY FEE (INC IN PAYMENTS BELOW)	£310
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	£7494.36
INITIAL PAYMENT	£170
46 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	£139.88
FINAL PAYMENT	£289.88
DURATION OF AGREEMENT	48 MONTHS
FIXED RATE	12.76%
REPRESENTATIVE APR	16.6%

09/09 FORD FOCUS 1.8
STYLE 5DR

18553 MILES



£7499

CASH PRICE	£7499
DEPOSIT/PART EXCHANGE	£800
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CREDIT	£6699
PURCHASE FEE (INC IN PAYMENTS BELOW)	£10
CREDIT FACILITY FEE (INC IN PAYMENTS BELOW)	£310
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	£9825.96
INITIAL PAYMENT	£345.36
35 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	£175.36
OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT	£2543
DURATION OF AGREEMENT	37 MONTHS
FIXED RATE	13.92%
REPRESENTATIVE APR	17.4%

09/09 FORD KUGA DIESEL ZETEC
2.0 TDCI 5DR

8527 MILES



£17499

CASH PRICE	£17499
DEPOSIT/PART EXCHANGE	£2000
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CREDIT	£15499
PURCHASE FEE (INC IN PAYMENTS BELOW)	£10
CREDIT FACILITY FEE (INC IN PAYMENTS BELOW)	£310
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	£22227.04
INITIAL PAYMENT	£578.39
35 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	£408.39
OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT	£5355
DURATION OF AGREEMENT	37 MONTHS
FIXED RATE	13.41%
REPRESENTATIVE APR	15.4%

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58 FORD KA HATCHBACK 1.3i STYLE [70] 3DR 26433 MILES	£5599
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59 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.25 EDGE 5DR 11567 MILES	£8899
59 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.25 EDGE 5DR 8691 MILES	£8999
59 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.25 EDGE 5DR 8910 MILES	£8999
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Peugeot 508 means serious business

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

PEUGEOT could change the world of the company car driver with its new 508.

The sleek newcomer has style, quality and equipment to challenge the German Audi A4, BMW 3-Series and Mercedes-Benz C-Class premium trio and from a modest £18,150.

The proof though will be in residual values at the end of a 508's obligatory three years' hard labour as a company hack – a test that its 407 predecessor failed.

Though its gaping mouth grille pioneered the Peugeot corporate look of the Noughties, the 407's styling dated fast, the cabin lacked premium feel and the driving experience was so-so. Peugeot's model review probably noted that the French marque must do better than rely on the appeal of its excellent diesel engines.

Its well-trimmed and good-looking successor though,



should still be looking good enough to command the money at the end of company service providing there is enough desire from second-hand car buyers who, let's be honest, like German kit enough to keep used values high and company car lease deals relatively low as a consequence.

Game-changing plays available to the 508 (£18,150)

include styling that oozes class in both saloon and SW (estate) guise. The latter's downswept rear side windows disguise roof height over the rear cargo bay to create a sporty look tipped to secure as much as half of all 508 demand – underlining a surge in estate sales across the 'family car' sector.

The 508's lines are drawn from the eye-catching SR1

coupe concept, which Peugeot maintains will never be built but donated a blueprint for a new generation of cars.

If the 508's styling is a fresh departure, the high quality cabin celebrates a journey started with the current 308 and showing the gap between the outgoing 407 and the 508.

The ergonomics, fit and finish and quality of the plastics

and materials is striking on first encounter – a longer term test will say more – and the full length panoramic roof on the SW enhances the experience.

The final ace up the sleeve is the 508 driving experience: Peugeot has married the usual smooth ride with superior acoustic damping and far better dynamics across the range, with keen drivers able to opt for GT versions featuring a

modified front axle delivering more rigidity and 'point and shoot' capability for a relatively big car.

Which engine? Well, most will opt for the diesels: a 112bhp 1.6-litre, 140 and 163bhp 2.0-litre and 204bhp 2.2-litre.

The baby engine is available as an ultra-green e-HDI model with stop/start to save emissions and consumption in busy traffic, but the clutchless manual/auto EGC gearbox that further enables it to deliver a near road tax-exempt 109g/km of CO2 can feel awkward.

However, company car 'user choosers' will check it out for its tax-beating virtues and Peugeot is confident this will be the best seller and in mid-range SR trim.

But there are petrol alternatives: a 120bhp 1.6-litre with that EGC gearbox and a turbocharged 156bhp 1.6, with the latter likely to appeal to the private new car buyers expected to account for at least 20 per cent of 508 sales.

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C5, 5, gk59Hj, 1 registered keeper remote central locking electric windows electric mirrors abs traction control climate control power steering drivers airbag passenger airbag side airbags alarm alarm immobiliser alloy wheels bluetooth handsfree rear parking sensors front parking sensors sports seats auto headlights auto wipers, blue, 9500 miles, £18995, Folkestone, 01303 245 588 (TRADE)

C5, 16v, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking electric windows power fold mirrors multiple airbags, silver, 2600 miles, £23000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C5, 16v, 2008, silver, 51 miles, £23990, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C5, Tourer, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking isofox child seat points rear headrests, storm grey (metallic), 24 miles, £15500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C5, 1.6, 2008, grey, 50 miles, £23000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

DS3, 3, g110dw, central locking front electric windows electric windows abs traction control air conditioning power steering drivers airbag passenger airbag cruise control alarm immobiliser alloy wheels bluetooth sub woofer save £3000, yellow, 4900 miles, £13995, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

DS3, DSPORT HDI, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights half leather trim immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofox child seat points adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers rear headrests, metallic blue, 100 miles, £15000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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500, MULTIJET POP, 2009, abs brakes cd player central locking diesel electric windows power steering, silver, 5532 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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500, 500 POP, 2009, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows multiple airbags power steering adjustable steering column 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, silver, 19921 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 SPORT, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows full service history immobiliser power steering tonneau cover front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking remote audio controls, cha cha cha azure, 1500 miles, £10000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, Pink, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering sunroof, pink, 2000 miles, £10294, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, Pop, 2009, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking, grey, 20875 miles, £6700, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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FOCUS C-Max, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats tinted glass curtain airbags remote central locking auto headlights and wipers quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, verdigris, 18375 miles, £8580, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

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KENT CRICKET LEAGUE 2011 PREVIEW

■ **PREMIER DIVISION:** Bexley, Bickley Park, Blackheath, Bromley, Hartley Country Club, Lordsood, Sevenoaks Vine, Sibton Park, The Mote, Tunbridge Wells

THE race for the Premier Division title looks to be wide open this season, with champions Bromley having bid farewell to their host of former professionals.

Traditionally among the pre-season favourites, Bromley's aspirations appear rather more modest this summer, with a crop of young club players coming through to replace the established names who helped them win four of the last six championships.

Chris Harris, Ed Giddins, Paul Harrison and Alan Wells have all left the club, leaving captain James Butterfill with a very different challenge ahead of him.

"We've gone in a different direction this season," he said. "Club cricket's gone a certain way, with a lot of ex-professionals filtering in, and we've probably gone a bit overboard in recent years. I'm looking forward to this season more than any other because we're putting our faith in these good club players. They're not complete novices but, ultimately, it's difficult to replace guys who have played international and county cricket."

The news from Bromley could pave the way for Hartley Country Club to lift their first title since 2008, having been edged into second place by just four points last term. Meanwhile, newcomers Blackheath could be the division's surprise package, having assembled a strong squad during the off-season.

Sibton Park, the side who pipped Blackheath to the Division One title last summer, are playing Premier Division cricket for the first time in their history and skipper Steve Hobbs is relishing the task.

He said: "Of course it's a step up, but we didn't just scrape into the division, we won the league relatively convincingly and we should have confidence in our ability. We're a small club in a small village, with a low playing membership, but we work hard and play a good standard of cricket. It's exciting for the club to play against the best sides. We're not going to challenge at the top, but we're not frightened of anyone."

Sevenoaks Vine, under new captain Karl Pearson, should be among the most improved sides this season although their neighbours, Tunbridge Wells, look set for another tough campaign.

■ **DIVISION ONE:** Ashford Town, Beckenham, Broadstairs, Canterbury, Folkestone, Gore Court, Sandwich, St Lawrence & Highland Court, Tenterden, Whitstable

SO OFTEN the closest fought competition of all, Division One looks typically difficult to call again.

The geographical make-up of the division means virtually all fixtures will have local pride on the line as well as points, adding to the spice.

St Lawrence & Highland Court will be the most prized scalp. The team finished third in the top flight last season, but were demoted after their Clubmark status lapsed.

It is a new-look line-up, with openers Dominic Chambers and Dan Stickels departing, along with experienced wicketkeeper Paul Dixey.

The exits will give opportunities to the club's young talents and they will have the services of Bermudan-born Kent Academy bowler Damali Bell, who has impressed in pre-season.

Clubs prepare for a season of ups and downs

Sports reporters **STEVE TERVET** and **DAVID PRITCHARD** preview the new cricket season

Pictures: IGOR KUPCO



READY: The Kent League begins with St Lawrence (left) looking for promotion to rejoin Lordsood (top) in the Premier Division, while Addington Village (above) will stick with the same side this year

Skipper Lewis Jenkins, who will miss at least the first month of the campaign with a dislocated elbow, is aware his side will be seen as the team to beat.

He said: "From where we finished last season obviously we're there to be shot at. I think the biggest difference from the Premier Division is although everyone will have match-winners, there won't be quite as many in each team."

Of the rest of the division, Beckenham are expected to be the strongest contenders for the title.

■ **DIVISION TWO:** Catford and Cyphers, Dartford, Gravesend, Harvel, Hayes, Holmesdale, HSBC, Hythe, Orpington, Upchurch

EXACTLY what gulf in quality there is between Divisions Two and Three will be highlighted by Upchurch this season as they bid to consolidate after a long-awaited promotion.

After two seasons of bitter disappointment, the Swale club finally went up last summer and are keen to avoid the fate of local rivals Minster, relegated straight back to Division Three after a season-long stay.

"The idea is to compete and hopefully finish in the top-half," Upchurch chairman Jerry Overbury said. "It's unknown territory for us, really. There's not a lot between Divisions Three and Four but to Division Two, there's probably a slightly bigger jump in the quality of players. It showed last year with Minster, who came up and went straight back down."

Lee Stepney skippers Upchurch again this summer, with 17-year-old Aaron Walker one of the club's brightest young hopes following a series of excellent pre-season batting displays.

Gravesend are also riding the promotion wave and will be looking to push on again, while Sevenoaks side Holmesdale are also aiming to better their mid-table finish of 2010 and challenge the front-runners. Hythe and Harvel are still licking

their wounds after miserable Division One campaigns last summer.

■ **DIVISION THREE:** Addington Village, Bromley Common, Catford Wanderers, High Halstow, Linden Park, Minster (Sheppey), Old Colfeians, Old Elthamians, Old Wilsonians, Sidcup

OPTIMISM abounds in Division Three with the majority of the division fancying their chances of getting into the title race.

Linden Park, third last season, are among the clubs to have bolstered their side during the winter. Bromley Common look likely to improve on seventh place last time out, while newly promoted Sidcup are rumoured to be strong and 2009 champions Minster will be keen to get back into Division Two at the first attempt.

The investment at Addington Village, who came fourth last summer, has taken place on their facilities rather than on personnel, with £250,000 spent improving the infrastructure in recent years.

Peter Robinson, club president, said: "The team will be similar to last season, with the same home-bred youngsters who have come through the ranks. We'd like to finish higher if we can, but our ambition won't be at the expense of getting over-stretched."

■ **DIVISION FOUR:** Betteshanger Colliery Welfare, Bexleyheath, Chestfield, Deal Victoria & Barns Close, Downham & Bellingham, Gravesend RF, Macknade, OD CUACO, Rainham, Rodmersham

PROMOTION came as a surprise to many at Deal Victoria & Barns Close last season, but the east Kent club insist they are ready for the challenge of Division Four cricket.

Their arrival means the local rivalry with Betteshanger Colliery Welfare can resume this summer in a division utterly dominated by Old Wilsonians and Sidcup last term.

Deal chairman Steve Thompson said: "It's tough to set targets after last year. We wanted to make sure we didn't get relegated, but we ended up getting promoted. We've been a bit spoilt recently, we've had about five promotions in eight years so we've got that impetus behind us."

Chestfield and Downham & Bellingham will both be keen to impress following relegation from Division Three last season.

■ **DIVISION FIVE:** Bapchild, Bickley Park, Blackheath 3rd XI, Bromley Town, Chislehurst & West Kent, Cowdrey, Nonington, Offham, Walmer, Wickham Park

THE first job of all the sides in the basement division is to avoid relegation to the Feeder Leagues at the end of the summer.

Most of the clubs will have significantly more ambition, though, including newly-promoted Cowdrey and Nonington.

The good record of clubs who have won titles in the Feeder Leagues gives Cowdrey secretary Bill Warner cause for optimism.

He said: "The last four or five sides promoted into this division have done well. I think maybe the strength of the Feeder League top division is as strong as the lower end of the Kent League."

Offham and Blackheath, who just missed out on promotion last summer, will also fancy their chances.

Sport

For more sports news and pictures go to www.kentsport.co.uk

CYCLING

House hopes to take form into National Championships and the Tour of Britain

By Glenn Pearson

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A GUTSY ride in the challenging Tour of Korea and good early season form has set Kristian House up for his two main events of the year.

The National Road Race Championship next month and the Tour of Britain in September are two crucial races in the Canterbury-born rider's season, and form at this time of the year is important. The 31-year-old finished a creditable 18th in Korea last month and was part of a Rapha Condor Sharp team that had two riders in the top-10 and boasted a stage win through sprinter Ed Clancy, the Olympic gold medalist.

Yet it started poorly for House and his teammates, who arrived at the start line jet-lagged and suffering with an allergic reaction to cherry blossom that meant completing the first stage was a challenge in itself. House was as far down as 110th, but things improved for him and the team, although a stage in the mountains mid-race was as tough as he has raced in his career.

"It was really nice pretty much the entire race bar the one stage and that was the stage that went up into the mountain," he said. "It just rained all day and was colder the higher we went up, but most of us got through it. You either get through it or you drop out and half the field did drop out. When we passed the soigneurs and they were passing out hot chocolate I could easily have stopped then, but it's a long way to go to give up and it's not in my character to do that."

However, House, who grew up in Texas, was pulled out of a race in Mallorca at the beginning of April by team boss John Herety after suffering with exhaustion. The effects of winning the Tour of South Africa in February, the first event of the season, had taken its toll on House who was in danger of seeing his good early form dip at just the wrong time.

"I feel in good form, but I went through a patch where I wasn't feeling as good and that was due



6699

I went through a patch where I wasn't feeling as good. I was on the border of not quite cracking, but really struggling

KRISTIAN HOUSE

to coming away from a win in the race in South Africa," he said. "Mentally it can kind of mess you up a bit because you can go into the next race with this amazing form and you have such confidence and then you don't win or things don't go to plan - it can go one of two ways: you can either crack or persevere. I was on the border of not quite cracking, but really struggling.

"I came home early from Spain, I was just exhausted and that was the best thing for me. That shows how well my manager knows me, he can see me ride and say 'that's not right'."

House steps up his preparations for next month's National Road Race Championships at the Lincoln Grand Prix on Sunday. Described by House as "the coolest race in Britain", its punishing 1-in-4 climb on the cobbled streets of Michaelgate means it's unlikely to end in a

FORM:

Kristian House has his eyes on the National Road Race Championships and the Tour of Britain this year, but says his win in South Africa (above left) really took it out of him

bunch sprint, which will give House a chance to add to the title he won in 2006.

He will then have a break before a race in France in the lead up to the National Road Race Championships, with House looking to reclaim the jersey he won in 2009. The 122.5-mile course this year is around the streets of Newcastle and House believes it will mean for a more competitive race, compared to last year's in Lancashire won by Team Sky's Geraint Thomas.

"I think this start has set me up for the rest of the year pretty well," House said. "Everything is going pretty well and is set up for the nationals and then it's the Tour of Britain.

"We have raced that course quite a few times and I don't think it's going to be as savage as last year's race so that should make for a more open race."



Pictures: GERARD BROWN

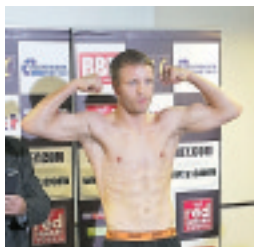
BOXING

Webb eyes victory at Medway Park to bring European title shot closer

A EUROPEAN title shot could be just two fights away for Sam Webb as he gears up for the second defence of his British light-middleweight crown in Gillingham this week.

The 30-year-old, from Chislehurst, takes on Prince Arron in front of the Sky Sports cameras at Medway Park on Friday night, knowing a 14th consecutive victory would thrust him closer to the continental spotlight.

Webb's unbeaten record stretches back to May 2006 while Arron last tasted defeat in October 2007. A crowd of more than 1,500 is expected to fill Medway Park for the fight, which will prove a defining point in Webb's career whatever the outcome.



TITLE SHOT: Kent's Sam Webb

"It's going to be tough because he's not lost for three years and he's got a height and reach advantage," Webb said. "He'll be well up for it because a British title fight brings a bit extra out of any fighter, but I'm prepared for that. Being the champion, I'll be tough to beat, I can promise that.

"You've got to defend the belt three times to win it outright and this is my second defence. If I could do that, win two more fights, it moves things forward for a European title fight, and that's a big incentive."

The Sidcup-born fighter came through to knock out Martin Concepcion in the 11th round of his last fight back in October and was presented to the Kent crowd at the last Medway Park show in March.

"It seems like a nice venue," Webb said. "It'll be different with the cameras this time because it won't be as bright. I've not boxed in Kent since I turned professional and it's not far from where I was born, so it should be a good night."

COUNTDOWN TO THE OPEN

67 DAYS: Nick Faldo carded one of only two rounds of 67 at Royal St George's in the 2003 Open

DISNEYLAND provides the backdrop this weekend for the latest stage in Bann Barham's bid to return to form.

The Allianz Challenge de France reaches its climax just outside Paris this weekend, with the 35-year-old hoping to build on a successful return to the European Challenge Tour last month.

Barham is regaining his fitness after undergoing surgery to have a kidney removed in October.

The tournament in France marks the start of a busy sequence on tour for the Tenterden golfer, who is trying to hit top gear in time for next month's Open Championship

qualifying events.

Progress is the main aim this week, as Barham aims to build on the 63rd place finish he claimed in his comeback tournament at the Kenya Open five weeks ago, which he was pleased with.

He told the European Tour's website: "It doesn't really matter what you go through or how long you have off, you still want to be competitive because that's in a golfer's nature. But it was quite an achievement just to tee up in Kenya in many ways, and then to play some decent golf on the first two days was even more of an achievement.

"My goal at the start of the

week was just to make the cut and play all four rounds, so I was quite happy to achieve that. There were some encouraging signs, and also some things I needed to work on."

It is also an important week for two other Kent players hoping to tee up in front of a home crowd at Royal St George's in July.

Matt Haines and Steven Tiley have both struggled since gaining their first cards on the European Tour and have yet to make a cut. The pair had a chance to break their duck this weekend, when they played in the Spanish Open.

See www.kentsport.co.uk for details on how they performed.

Sport

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RUGBY



TOUGH: Aylesford had to dig deep in the semi

Bulls head to Twickenham for cup final showdown

EXCITEMENT is building at Aylesford Bulls as they prepare for a trip to Twickenham next weekend to contest the Intermediate Cup final.

A campaign which began with a narrow victory over Guildford in November hit new heights last weekend as highly fancied Berry Hill were beaten 13-0 in the semi-final, extending the Bulls' winning streak to 14 games in all competitions.

It set up the club's first trip to the national stadium, where they will take on Stoke on Trent next Saturday.

Aylesford have booked coaches for 500 fans to make the pilgrimage to south-west London in what could be a once in a lifetime opportunity to cheer their club at the home of English rugby.

Neil Wiltshire, Bulls' director of rugby, is thrilled with the achievement.

He said: "Everybody is so excited. One or two of the squad have played in big games elsewhere, but it will certainly be the pinnacle in their careers.

"The players won't have a chance to go on to the pitch until they walk out for the game. There won't be a massive crowd, but the stadium's so huge it is bound to affect everyone. The team which deals with it the best will probably come out on top."

The Bulls will be attempting to emulate Thanet Wanderers, who won the first Intermediate Cup at Twickenham in 1997, beating Doncaster in the final.

Supporters of clubs from all over Kent attended the semi-final at the Jack Williams Memorial Ground last weekend and more are expected to put their loyalties to one side next weekend.

Roger Clarke, chairman of the Kent County Rugby Football Union, believes the success is good for the whole area.

He said: "National cup competitions are one indicator of gauging Kent's relative success compared to other counties. Everybody's delighted with how Aylesford have done. It should be a great occasion because it's a rare privilege to play at Twickenham."

CRICKET

Wounded Kent continue to be restricted by injury jinx

By Glenn Pearson

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INCONSISTENCY and injuries continue to plague Kent as their stuttering start to the season goes from one extreme to the other.

Defeat to Gloucestershire in the LV= County Championship last week was followed by a six-wicket loss against the Worcestershire Royals in the first Clydesdale Bank 40 game of the season. However, Rob Key's injury-hit squad showed what they are capable of with a comprehensive eight-wicket win against the Middlesex Panthers on Bank Holiday Monday, but then struggled in the early part of the championship game against Northamptonshire, which ends on Saturday.

For Kent's director of cricket, Paul Farbrace, it's been a frustrating watch from the sidelines.

"The Gloucestershire result was disappointing in that we fought well in the last half of the game and didn't play well in the first half," he said. "Getting 200 when you bat first is never enough. We are struggling to put up a first innings score at the moment and that's making it hard work for the rest of the game and you are chasing it all the time.

"Worcester was another one that we should have won and we lost momentum at the end of our batting innings. We should have got a further 25-30 runs and that in the end probably cost us the game.

"The Middlesex win was a good performance and we showed a lot of real guts, so it shows we are capable of it.

"It's so frustrating when you've got a small group of players and we're constantly losing players to injuries. To lose two in the last championship game to broken thumbs was heartbreaking because they are two of our best players."

The thumb injuries to Joe Denly and Simon Cook means it's difficult to put a timescale on their return, while Robbie Joseph's quad strain is likely to see him out for another couple of weeks. On the plus side, fast bowler Matt Coles has a chance of playing at Glamorgan in the championship on Tuesday, while Dewald Nel has been pencilled in to play in the university match



Picture: ADY KERRY

COME HERE: James Tredwell congratulates Adam Riley after the spinner takes a wicket last week

against Loughborough on May 18.

All-rounder Azhar Mahmood was ruled out of last week's championship game with a hip and groin injury, but could make a return for Sunday's CB40 visit of Yorkshire Carnegie with the Spitfires set to name the same side that played at Lord's last week. It will, however, be Adam Ball's final appearance before he takes his exams in July. The 18-year-old has impressed, but returns to school this week.

While Kent's injuries mount up, it has pre-

sented an opportunity for the likes of Adam Riley, James Goodman and Neil Saker, while Farbrace has challenged the side to show more consistency.

"It's great the young boys are getting an opportunity and most of them are putting in decent performances, but we need more days like the Middlesex game and less days like the Worcestershire game," he said. "If we learn and we don't make the same mistakes then fine; we need some consistent performances."

WORLD SUPERBIKES

Test pace sets up Camier Italian job

LEON Camier heads to Italy this weekend in flying form as he bids to breathe new life into his World Superbike Championship season at Monza.

The Ashford rider was frustrated by technical difficulties at Assen three weeks ago, retiring from race one before recovering to storm through the field and claim fourth place in the second race.

The 24-year-old posted the fastest lap time in the Netherlands and he hinted at further improvements this week during a two-day test session at Mugello, near Florence.

Camier lapped just one tenth of a second slower than his Aprilia team-mate, world champion Max Biaggi, despite still suffering from slight after-effects of the glandular fever which hit him at the start of the season.

He lies fourth in the standings ahead of the two Monza races, both scheduled for Sunday.

HOCKEY

Canterbury suffer the dreaded drop

CANTERBURY'S men will be playing in the Conference East next season after finishing bottom of the promotion tournament last weekend.

Kwan Browne's side lost their matches against Southgate and university sides from Exeter and Durham to confirm their relegation after only one season in hockey's Premier Division. It was a complete contrast to 12 months ago, when the team had a 100 per cent winning record to earn promotion.

A bitterly disappointed Browne said: "We were by far the best team there, but our weaknesses played straight into the hands of our opponents. Their strikers were much faster than our defence and we couldn't take our chances.

"We have developed well as a team the last couple of years and we need to carry on with that. We have to win the league next year and we'll be looking at making a few changes to the squad to improve."

RUGBY LEAGUE

Dragons slayed in one-sided debut

SENIOR rugby league began with a bump for Medway Dragons as their campaign started with a thrashing at the hands of Elmbridge Eagles.

After three years building success at a junior level, the first 'open age' game marked a significant milestone in the fledgling club's history.

It is expected to take the side, which provides the under-18 players with a route to continue playing, some time to settle into the added demands in the Rugby League Conference South East.

The gulf was shown last weekend, when the Dragons lost 84-10 at home, but head coach Martin Coyd was upbeat about the team's future.

He said: "I'm really proud of the lads, all 26 of them, who turned out and got us through. We got our backsides kicked, hard, but they never gave up, they were warriors and have given us a foundation and a belief."

Sport

For more sports news and pictures go to www.kentsport.co.uk

SPORTS ROUND-UP

Bulls return to league

FRESH from booking a first ever trip to Twickenham, Aylesford Bulls turn their attention back to league concerns.

The Bulls beat Berry Hill 13-0 last weekend to reach the Intermediate Cup final later this month.

Despite their cup run, promotion from London 2 South East at the first attempt remains the priority.

A play-off place against Trojans is already secured, but they need a win from their final league game, at mid-table Brighton this afternoon, to ensure home advantage.



FORM: Aylesford Bulls

Fleet on verge of final

A PLACE in the Conference South play-off final looks all but assured as Ebbsfleet United head into tomorrow's semi-final second leg.

The Fleet won the first leg away to Chelmsford City 4-1 on Tuesday night. Michael West and Ricky Shakes both bagged braces in a display manager Liam Daish rated as the best his side had produced all season.

Ashley Carew is suspended, while Daren Hawkes, on work experience from Gillingham, is likely to continue in goal at Stonebridge Road.

See Kent on Sunday for the full preview.

County squad go west

THE county's rugby side begin their campaign to lift the Bill Beaumont Cup with a tough trip this afternoon.

Kent won promotion to Division One South last year and start away to a strong Gloucestershire side at Lydney.

A place at Twickenham awaits the winners of the group, which also features Cornwall and Hertfordshire.



Hythe in double bid

THE top two teams in the Kent League meet in the Premier Division Cup final at Cheriton Road in Folkestone this afternoon.

Hythe Town needed a last-gasp equaliser in their final game of the season last weekend to win the title from Herne Bay on goal difference.

Scott Porter's men are keen to complete the double against Bay, who won the cup last season and are desperate to avoid ending the season empty-handed.

Athletics league starts

THE Southern Men's League season begins today with several Kent clubs in action.

Following relegation last summer, Medway & Maidstone will be hoping for a strong start in west London.

Bexley, the only other local squad in Division One, host their own meeting, while Invicta East Kent are among the clubs in Division Two South.



CHESTERFIELD V GILLINGHAM:
Kick-off 3pm at The b2net Stadium

Gills' play-off fate rests with others on final day

By David Pritchard

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THE League Two season reaches its climax this afternoon with Gillingham manager Andy Hessenthaler accentuating the positives as a play-off place hangs in the balance.

Defeats at home to Barnet and Macclesfield on consecutive weekends have left the Gills on the outside of the play-off picture looking in with 90 minutes of the campaign remaining.

A trip to Chesterfield, who need a point to secure the league title, only adds to the challenge. The only certainty is a defeat would end the Gills' hopes, but the rest is up in the air on an afternoon where spectators will be as glued to news from elsewhere as much as the action on the pitch.

To force their way into the top seven, Gillingham must pick up more points than either Stevenage, who host second-placed Bury, or Torquay, who visit Rotherham.

Hessenthaler will keep abreast of the scores, which could have an impact on tactics, but the main objective is to take at least a point from Chesterfield.

He said: "We have still got a chance, but the priority is what we do and we've been as positive as we can this week. In the end we've just got to make sure we do our job. We haven't lost away since January, but we can't live off the back of stats and everything goes out of the window in a one-off game."

Barry Fuller (knee) is definitely out and Andy Barcham (hamstring) is a doubt, but Curtis Weston (knee) has trained well and will go into the squad.



Picture: ADY KERRY

THREAT: Top scorer Cody McDonald will be key to the Gills' hopes of getting a result at Chesterfield

CANTERBURY V WESTCOMBE PARK:

Kick-off 3pm at Merton Lane

Picture: IGOR KUPCO



PRESSURE: Canterbury (in black) must avoid defeat

County rivals clash in a crunch drop decider

A WHOLE season's work is on the line as Canterbury and Westcombe Park meet knowing relegation will be sealed for one club this afternoon.

The winners at Merton Lane will retain their National 2 South status, while the losers drop into the fifth tier next season.

Canterbury go into the game two points ahead of their rivals, but head coach

Danny Vaughan is taking nothing for granted.

He said: "We haven't been consistent this season, but one thing we might be capable of is winning a one-off game."

Simon Jervis, Park's head coach, said: "It's a cup final, but at the same time we don't want to put too much pressure on the guys. The stakes are massive."

TONBRIDGE ANGELS V LOWESTOFT TOWN:

Kick-off 3pm at Longmead Stadium

Angels are prepared for biggest ever game

Picture: DAVE COULDRIDGE

CONFERENCE South football is just 90 minutes away from Tonbridge Angels as they host Lowestoft Town in the Ryman Premier play-off final.

A big crowd is expected to flock to Longmead for the game on Saturday, with promotion at stake.

More than 1,100 watched on Tuesday night as Harrow Borough were dramatically beaten 3-2 after extra time.

The Angels have never played above Ryman Premier level, but manager Tommy Warrilow believes with the backing of the home fans, his side have every chance of winning promotion.

He said: "It's a massive game, the biggest in the club's history."

"We're on a high to get to the final much more. The main thing is Lowestoft are coming to us.



GLORY: Tonbridge (in blue)

"Our fans were fantastic in the semi-final, they stuck with us and we came out at the other end."

Top scorer Frannie Collin could be involved after missing the run-in with an Achilles problem, although he is unlikely to be risked from the start.

Lowestoft beat Bury 2-1 in the other semi-final.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

All games kick off at 3pm unless stated otherwise

LEAGUE TWO: Chesterfield v Gillingham

RYMAN LEAGUE PLAY-OFF FINAL: Tonbridge Angels v Lowestoft Town

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION CUP FINAL: Herne Bay v Hythe Town (at Folkestone Invicta FC)

SUNDAY

CONFERENCE SOUTH PLAY-OFF SEMI-FINAL SECOND LEG: Ebbsfleet United v Chelmsford City

RUGBY

NATIONAL 2 SOUTH:

Canterbury v Westcombe Park

LONDON 2 SOUTH EAST:

Brighton v Aylesford Bulls

BILL BEAUMONT CUP DIVISION 2: Gloucestershire v Kent

CRICKET

(ALL GAMES START 1.15PM UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION (ALL GAMES START AT NOON):

Bexley v Tunbridge Wells; Bickley Park v The Mote; Blackheath v Sibton Park; Lordswood v Hartley; Sevenoaks Vine v Bromley

DIVISION ONE: Canterbury v Sandwich Town; St Lawrence & Highland Court v Beckenham; Tenterden v Gore Court; Whitstable v Broadstairs

DIVISION TWO: Catford & Cyphers v Harvel; Holmesdale v HSBC; Hythe v Hayes; Orpington v Dartford; Upchurch v Gravesend

DIVISION THREE: Addington Village v Linden Park; Catford Wanderers v Minster; Old Elthamians v Old Colfeians; Old Wilsonians v High Halstow; Sidcup v Bromley Common

DIVISION FOUR: Deal Victoria and Barns Close v Gravesend RFC; Downham & Bellingham v Bexleyheath; Macknade v Chestfield; OD CUACO v Rainham; Rodmersham v Betteshanger

DIVISION FIVE: Bapchild v Blackheath 3rd XI; Bickley Park 3rd XI v Cowdrey; Offham v Nonington; Walmer v Bromley Town; Wickham Park v Chislehurst & West Kent

KENT REGIONAL LEAGUE (ALL GAMES START 1.30PM)

PREMIER DIVISION: Bobbing Court & Lower Halstow v Bexley 3rd XI; Farningham v Blackheath 5th XI; RACS v Mersham Sports; Shooters Hill v Tunbridge Wells 3rd XI; Westgate-On-Sea v Dartfordians

CHAMPIONSHIP EAST:

Hawkinge v Bearsted; Leeds & Broomfield v Littlebourne; Old Williamsons v Tonbridge; Sandwich Town 3rd XI v Yalding; Wye v Frindsbury

CHAMPIONSHIP WEST: Belvedere v Pembury; Bexley Park v Bromley 3rd XI; Dartford 3rd XI v Holborough Anchors; Lessa Christ Church v Blackheath Wanderers; Southfleet v RASRA Eagles

For full match previews and team news ahead of this weekend's fixtures visit kentsport.co.uk You can also follow us @ twitter.com/kentsport or visit our Facebook page by searching 'Kent Sport'



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